

Frontispiece



*The Select Virgin conducted by the Luminous Arm.
into the Presence of the Inca of Peru.*

Frontispiece



*The Select Virgin conducted by the Luminous Arm.
into the Presence of the Inca of Peru.*

PERUVIAN TALES,

RELATED IN

One Thousand and One Hours,

By One of the

Select Virgins of Cusco,

TO THE

YNCA OF PERU,

To dissuade him from a Resolution he had
taken to destroy himself by Poison.

Interspersed with

Curious and Historical REMARKS,

EXPLAINING

The Religious and Civil Customs and Ceremonies of
the Antient Inhabitants of that GREAT EMPIRE.

Translated from the Original FRENCH

By SAMUEL HUMPHREYS, Esq;

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

THE FOURTH EDITION.

L O N D O N :

Printed for CHARLES RIVINGTON ; And Sold by
JOHN RIVINGTON in St. Paul's Church-yard.

MDCCCLXIV.

PERUVIAN TALES.

RELATED IN

One Thousand and One Hours.

By General de la

Select Virgins of Cuzco.

TO THE

YINCA OF PERU.

To illustrate the History of the Kingdom he had
taken to collect by Tradition.



London: Printed by R. B. Smith, in the Strand.

The Publisher, J. B. Smith, in the Strand, is
the Author of the History of the Kingdom.

Printed by J. B. Smith, in the Strand.

By J. B. Smith, in the Strand.

In the Strand, in the Strand.

Vol. I.

The History of the Kingdom.

Printed by J. B. Smith, in the Strand.

Printed by J. B. Smith, in the Strand.

Printed by J. B. Smith, in the Strand.



THE
TRANSLATOR'S
P R E F A C E.

WHEN I had employed some leisure hours in reading over these Peruvian Tales in the original, they appeared to me so innocently agreeable and entertaining, that I was easily prevailed upon to attempt the translation now offered to the public.

I am sensible, indeed, there are many serious and contemplative persons, to whom all fictions in general appear tasteless and unimproving; and who limit the rational pleasures of reading, to works of deep learning and solidity: in consequence of which persuasion, they consider philosophic systems of nature, methodical essays on morality and religion, or mathematical investigations, as the only sources from

iv The Translator's P R E F A C E.

whence the pure streams of knowledge can flow into the minds of men.

When true learning appears in her native and unaffected dress, I must own her charms are irresistible; and shall always have the greatest veneration for those masters of science, who either unfold the wonders of terrestrial nature to our view, or astonish our imagination with the harmony of a planetary system, and lead us to innumerable suns and worlds in the immense regions of the heavens. Each of the sciences has some valuable present to offer us, and the divine, as well as the moralist, has a just claim to the cultivation of our souls: but when I have made this concession, I hope, I may be permitted to allow some merit to an agreeable and well-wrought fiction, and rank it in that class of writing, which is capable of contributing to a reader's improvement.

It is well known, that fable was frequently chosen by the ancients to be the vehicle of their wisdom: the Grecian *Æsop*, and the Arabian *Lokman*, have taught lions, wolves, and foxes, to improve mankind, and almost tempted us
to

The Translator's P R E F A C E. v

to forgive the depredations those fierce animals make on flocks and herds, for the sake of the instruction they have afforded us in their several classes and distributions on the earth. A teeming mountain * has put vanity out of countenance : the trees of the field have reproached a mercenary people for electing a bad king † ; and the howling wilderness has enriched the world with as many philosophic lectures, as the Tusculum of Cicero.

As to these Tales, they are calculated to recommend virtue and morality in various instances; and whilst they amuse the imagination, by a number of surprising incidents, they, at the same time, affect a reader with the amiable impression of humanity to his fellow-creatures, patriotism to his country, fortitude in his misfortunes, and purity in his passion for the fair.

If it should be objected, that the stories related in this work are altogether incredible, and consequently unworthy the attention of the judicious; that exception will be best answered by reminding those

* Parturiunt Montes, nascetur ridiculus mus, Hor.

† Jotham's Parable, Judges ix. 8.

vi The Translator's P R E F A C E.

who urge it, of the uncommon approbation with which the Arabian, Persian, and Turkish Tales were received by the public, when they appeared in an English dress; but, as I never yet heard them condemned for the improbability which reigns throughout them, I hope our Peruvian Adventures, which are no more incredible than the Oriental, but, in many particulars more entertaining, will not be censured for a circumstance, which was not thought a defect in the books above mentioned.

I might on this occasion take notice, that several learned men who have been well acquainted with the structure of a human body, have recommended, as a salutary amusement to a reader, such pieces as entertain the imagination with agreeable and surprising ideas. The incomparable Lord Bacon * is extremely favourable to such productions, and ranks them among those recreations, which caress the mind with pleasing enjoyments, and give the spirits a sprightly flow thro' the animal œconomy; by which means the vital functions are preserved from the languors and interruptions they receive from disa-

* See Historia Vitæ & Mortis.

The Translator's PREFACE. vii

greeable perceptions, or immoderate attentiveness to more elaborate researches.

It is a known fact, that the admirable Monsieur Bayle, and our immortal Milton, frequently left the regular walks of their more laborious and learned studies, to wander in the florid wilds of romance; where they enjoyed an easy relaxation from more abstruse and impairing attentions, and never received the least injury on that enchanted ground: and therefore the proprietors of this translation flatter themselves, that their fair readers in particular, who in the fine seasons adorn the mall with the loveliest objects on earth, will not be displeased with the magic groves and lawns of Peru.

It may not be improper to conclude this preface, with some account of the famous Mango Copac, who is so often mentioned in the following sheets, and is the reputed founder and legislator of the once flourishing empire of the Yncas in Peru. My observations shall be chiefly extracted from an illustrious author of our own country, whose inimitable writings will be an honour

viii The Translator's P R E F A C E.

nour to Great-Britain, as long as learning and politeness are in any repute *.

The kingdom of Peru deduced its original from their great heroes, Mango Copac, and his wife and sister Coya Mama, who were said to have first appeared in that country, near a mighty lake, which is still sacred on that account.

Before this time the inhabitants are reported to have lived like the beasts among them, without any traces of order, law, or religion; without cloathing, or any habitations but rocks, caves, and trees, to secure them from wild beasts, or on the tops of hills, if they were in fear of fierce neighbours. When Mango Copac and his sister, came first into these naked and savage lands, as they were persons of excellent shape and beauty, so they were adorned with such cloaths, as were afterwards the usual habit of the Yncas, by which name they called themselves. They told the people who first came about them, that they were the children of the sun, who had sent them down in pity to mankind, to reclaim them from their bestial

* Sir William Temple in his Essay on Heroic Virtue.

lives,

The Translator's P R E F A C E. ix

lives, and to instruct them how to live happily and safely, by observing such laws as their father, the sun, had commanded these his offspring to teach them. The great rule they first inculcated was, that every man should live according to reason, and consequently neither say nor do any thing to others, that they were not willing others should say or do to them; and this was the great principle of all their morality. In the next place, that they should worship the sun, who took care of the whole world, gave life to all creatures, and made the plants grow and the herbs fit for food to maintain them. After this they taught the arts most necessary for life: Mango Copac instructed them how to sow maize, or the common Indian grain; to build houses against inclemencies of air and wild beasts; to distinguish themselves by wedlock into families; to cover the shame of their nakedness with cloaths, and to tame and nourish such creatures as might be of common use and sustenance. Coya Mama taught the women to spin and weave cotton, and certain coarse wools of some beasts among them. With

x The Translator's PREFACE.

With these instructions and inventions, they were so much believed in all they said, and adored for the general utility they dispensed, that they were followed by numbers of people, and obeyed like children of the sun. Mango Copac had in his hand a rod of gold, and said, he had received it from his father the sun, who ordered him, when he travelled northward from the lake, to strike this rod into the ground, and where, at the first stroke it should sink to the very top, he should build a temple to the sun, and fix the seat of his government.

This happened to be in the vale of Cusco, where he founded that city, which was the capital of the great kingdom of Peru.

Here he divided his company into two colonies, or plantations, and began to be lawgiver to them: in each of these were, at first a thousand families; which he caused to be registered, with the numbers in each.

He instituted Decurians thro' both these colonies; that is, one over every ten families, another over fifty, a third over a hundred, a fourth over five hundred, and

The Translator's PREFACE. xi

a fifth over a thousand; and to this last officer they gave the name of Curaca, or governor. Every Decurion was a patron and judge in small controversies, among those under his charge, and took care that every one cloathed themselves according to the orders given them by the Yncas from the sun: one of which was, that none who could work should be idle, more than to rest after labour; and that those who could not work, thro' age, sickness, or invalidity, should be maintained by the industry of others. These regulations were so much observed, that in the whole empire of Peru, and during the long race of the Yncas, no beggar was ever known, and no woman ever went to see a neighbour without her work in her hand, which she followed all the time of the visit.

Every colony had one supreme judge, to whom the lower Decurions remitted great and difficult cases, or to whom the criminals in such cases appealed. But every Decurion, who concealed any crime of those under his charge above a day and a night, became guilty of it himself, and liable to the same punishment. There were laws likewise against theft, mutilations,

xii The Translator's PREFACE.

ons, murders, disobedience to officers, and adulteries; for every man was to have one lawful wife, but had the liberty of keeping other women as he could.

There is no doubt but that which contributed much to this great order in the state, was the disuse of other possessions than what was necessary to life, and the eminent virtue of their first great hero or legislator, which seemed to be entailed upon their whole race; so that it is reported among the Peruvians, that no true Ynca was ever found guilty or punished for any crime; and it is certain, no government was ever established, and continued, by greater examples of virtue and severity, nor any ever gave greater testimonies than the Yncas, of an excellent institution, by progresses both in the propagation and extent of empire, in peace and plenty, in greatness and magnificence of temples, palaces, high-ways, bridges, and all provisions necessary to common ease, safety, and utility of human life; so as several of the Jesuits, and particularly Acosta, prefer the civil constitutions of Mango Copac, before those of Lycurgus, Numa, Solon, or any other lawgivers so cele-

The Translator's P R E F A C E. xiii

celebrated in the more known parts of the world.

The reigning Ynca was called Cupa Ynca, which the Spaniards interpret, Solo Sennor, or only Lord. He always married the first of his female kindred, either sister, niece, or cousin, to preserve the line as pure as possible. Once in two years he assembled all the unmarried Yncas, men above twenty, and women above sixteen years of age, and there, in public, married all such as he thought fit. The same was done among the vulgar, by the Curaca of each people.

Every family at their time of meals, eat with their doors open, that all might see their temperance and order.

By such laws as these, Mango Copac first settled his kingdom in the colonies of Cusco, which in time multiplied into many others, by the willing confluence of several nations, allured by the divine authority of his orders. The sweetness and clemency of his reign, and the felicity of all who lived under it, and indeed the whole government of this race of the Yncas, was rather like that of a tender father

xiv The Translator's PREFACE.

ther over his children, than of a lord over slaves or subjects. By which they came to be so adored, that it was like sacrilege for any common person so much as to touch the Ynca without his permission.

After the extent of his kingdom into great territories round Cusco, Mango Copac assembled all his Curacas, and told them, his father the sun had commanded him to propagate his institutions as far as he was able, for the happiness of mankind; and for that purpose, to go with armed troops to those remoter parts which had not yet received them, and to reduce them to their observance. That the sun had commanded him not to hurt or offend any who would submit to him, and accept of the happiness offered by such divine bounty; but to distress only such as refused, without killing any who did not assail them, and then to do it justly in their own defence.

For this design he assembled troops of men, armed both with offensive, and chiefly defensive weapons; and with this, and other such armies, he reduced many new territories under his empire, declaring

The Translator's PREFACE. XV

to every people he approached, the same things he first imparted to those who came about him near the great lake. Those who submitted, enjoyed the same rights with the rest of his subjects; those who refused were distressed by his forces, till they were necessitated to comply with his orders.

By these methods, joined with the influence of such heroic virtues, and by the length of his reign, he so far extended his dominions, as to divide them into four provinces, over each of which he appointed an Ynca to be viceroy (having many sons grown fit to command) and in each of them established three supreme councils; the first of justice, the second of war, and the third of the revenue; of which an Ynca was likewise president, which continued ever after.

At the end of a long and adored reign, Mango Copac fell into the last period of his life; upon the approach whereof, he called together his children and grandchildren, with his eldest son, to whom he left his kingdom; and told them, he was going to repose himself with his father

xvi The Translator's P R E F A C E.

ther the sun, from whom he came; that he advised [and charged them all to pursue the paths of reason and virtue, which he had taught them, till they followed him in the same journey; that by this course only they would prove themselves to be true sons of the sun, and be as such honoured and esteemed. He gave the same charge more especially, and more earnestly, to the Ynca his successor, and commanded him to govern his people according to his example, and the precept he had received from the sun; and ever to conduct himself with justice, mercy, piety, clemency, and care of the poor; and when he, the prince, should go in time to rest with his father the sun, that he should give the same instructions to his successor. And this form was accordingly used in all the successions of the race of the Yncas, which lasted eight hundred years, with the same order, and the greatest felicity that could attend any state.

This kingdom is said to have extended near seven hundred leagues in length, from north to south, and about a hundred and twenty in breadth: it is bound-
ed

The Translator's PREFACE. xvii

ed on the west by the Pacific Ocean; on the east by mountains impassable for men or beasts, and, as some write, even birds themselves, the height being such as makes their tops covered with eternal snow, even in that warm region: on the north it is bounded by a great river; and on the south with another, which separates it from the province of Chili, that reaches to the streights of Magellan.

I will not say any thing of the greatness, magnificence and riches of their buildings, their palaces and temples, especially those of the sun; of the splendor of their court, their triumphs after victories, their huntings and feasts, their military exercises and honours; but as testimonies of their grandeur, will mention only two of their highways, whereof one was five hundred leagues in length, and levelled through mountains, rocks and vallies, so that a carriage might drive through that vast extent without difficulty. Another very long and large, paved with cut or squared stone, fenced with low walls on each side, and planted with trees, whose branches
gave

xviii The Translator's PREFACE.

gave shade, and the fruits food to all passengers.

This mighty empire was at last overturned by the Spaniards, whose conquests were facilitated and effected by the general hatred and aversion of the people in that kingdom to Atahualpa, who being a bastard of the Yncas family, had first, by indirect practices and subtilty, and afterwards by cruelty and violence, raised himself to the throne of Peru, and cut off, with merciless barbarity, all the male race of the true royal blood, who were at man's estate, or near it, after that line had lasted pure and sacred, and reigned with unspeakable felicity, both to themselves and their subjects, for above eight hundred years.

May 1, 1734.

S. HUMPHREYS.

PERU



PERUVIAN TALES.

TH E natives of Peru have a tradition, that this vast country was originally inhabited by savage nations, who in their manners resembled the brutes; and had no other similitude to mankind, than what appeared in their external shape. They lived without any regular system of laws or religion; and had neither houses or cities to inhabit. They were unacquainted with the proper culture of the earth; and knew not how to spin either flax or wool. They lived in caves, and subterranean glooms. Their food was roots, herbs, and wild fruits; and they frequently feasted on human flesh. They were strangers to the institution of marriage; and the men indulged themselves in a conjunction with those women who first came in their way.

VOL. I.

B

The

The sun, sensibly affected with the unhappy state of these nations, sent to them, at last, two of his children, whom he had begotten of the moon, namely, Mango Copac *, who was the first king or Ynca of Peru; and Coya Mama Oello Huaco†, whom he espoused, notwithstanding she was his sister; and who was likewise the first queen. The sun, their father, laid his injunctions on them both, to instruct the people in the principles of that religion they ought to profess; to prescribe such laws to them, as were proper for their obedience; and to teach them to build houses, and practise husbandry; to cultivate the plants, and rear their flocks: in a word, how to exercise their reasoning faculty.

The Ynca Mango Copac, and his wife Mama Oello, having gained on multitudes of both sexes, by their discourses, founded, in the valley of Cusco, a city of that name, which they chose for the capital of their empire. They, afterwards, peopled several other places, in-

* Mango is generally supposed to be the proper name, and Copac the surname; which last the natives gave him when he made some conquests. Copac, in the Peruvian language, signifies rich and potent in arms; it likewise expresses the idea of only or alone: and in this sense the word was appropriated to the king who was called Copac Ynca, which in its signification, imports the only king, emperor, or lord.

† Oello Huaco, in all probability were proper names. Coya signifies queen or empress; and Mama signifies mother. And from thence all the queens of Peru had the surname of Mamanchic, which signifies our mother.

structing

structing the inhabitants in every particular that could be advantageous to them, and which related either to the worship of the sun their father, or the necessaries and accommodations of life. The men were instructed in their duty by the Ynca, and the woman by the queen.

The first foundations of the empire of Peru being thus established, Mango Copac gradually extended the bounds of his dominions, and, at the same time, taught the barbarians around him tillage, and gave them excellent precepts for the regulation of their lives. He influenced them by the efficacy of persuasion, rather than the force of arms, to renounce their idols, and adore the sun. In a word, his successors, conducting themselves by the same principles, with respect to several other nations, the empire of the Ynca increased to such a degree, that it rose to all the grandeur and power which historians have ascribed to it.

One of the descendants of those first kings of Peru, was called the Ynca Yahuarhuacac*, a name which signifies, He who weeps blood. He received this appellation, because, when he was born †, he shed tears of blood: which the people, who valued themselves for their skill in divination, imagined to be a very fatal omen. They thought, such an unpropitious circum-

* He was the seventh king of Peru.

† Some writers declare, that the prince did not shed these bloody tears till about the third or fourth year of his age.

stance threatened their prince with some uncommon misfortune, and even the curse of his father the sun. However, at the beginning of his reign, he governed his dominions with great tranquillity and reputation; and his justice, piety, and gentle disposition, gave him as large a share of his subjects reverence and love, as was ever enjoyed by any of his predecessors.

In reality, Yahuarhuacac durst not like his ancestors, make war, in person, against his neighbours. His name seemed to him so ominous and intimidating to him to such a degree, that he was under great apprehensions that the sun, his father, would afflict him with some severe instance of his displeasure; and therefore he contented himself with making a frequent progress to different parts of his kingdom, raising magnificent structures, and repairing canals, aqueducts, palaces, public magazines, fountains, bridges and causeways; and when at last, he determined to perform some military exploits, his only motive to such a resolution was the hope of escaping the dishonourable character of indolence and pusillanimity, and that he might not be reproached, for being the only Ynca who had neglected the enlargement of his empire.

The Ynca Mayta*, his brother, was intrusted, by him, with the conduct of the intended

* The name Ynca, was common to the king and all the princes of his blood. The first Ynca was desirous that all

expedition; and the event succeeded to his wish: but the fortunate progress of the monarch's arms, had no power to dissipate the inquietudes he received from his inauspicious name; besides which, he was perpetually tormented with domestic vexations. These latter were chiefly created by the disorderly conduct, and unamiable qualities, of his eldest son, whom the laws destin'd for his successor in the empire. This prince was every moment giving new proofs of a savage and untractable disposition: in his very infancy, he had made it evident, that his sole delight consisted in tormenting not only the slaves and people who served him, but even the princes themselves, whose rank was subordinate to his own. In his youth, he seemed to breathe nothing but violence and blood. In vain did the Ynca, his father, use all possible endeavours to reform and soften his unlovely temper; and his cares were ineffectual; in vain did he labour to point his son's view to the examples of wisdom and moderation which his ancestors had left behind them; every day presented the king with some new instance of barbarity in the actions of his son. Resentments and threats were all unavailing; the prince continued to proceed in his own track: and his vicious inclinations being now grown habitual, changed into poison, all the remedies his descendants should be honoured with a title of royalty, that so the people might regard them with the greater veneration.

that were employed to cure the indisposition of his mind.

Severity became, at last, the only expedient from whence any benefit could be expected: but as yet it had never been judged proper to treat any Ynca, much less the presumptive heir of the crown, with rigour; and it was dangerous to come to such an extreme. There was reason to be apprehensive that the people, accustomed to consider their princes as the offspring of the sun, and consequently as gods, would take occasion, from their being punished, to imagine that the Yncas were men like themselves; and, possibly, even the other Yncas, as well as the people, would not patiently have permitted the king to treat the prince his son with austerity.

However, a fresh crime, which the young prince had committed, made it necessary for the king to resolve on measures of severity; and they became the more indispensable, because sacrilege made a flagrant part in the aggravation of the offence.

The prince was about eighteen years of age, when he suffered himself to be hurried into an excess, which till then, was never known. One of the select virgins* was brought to the palace.

* In the city of Cusco was a house, where the young ladies, who were intended to be wives to the sun, were educated. They were to be of the blood royal, and in legitimate descent from the Yncas, or their near relations. This house was called, The mansion of the select, because, in the choice of these ladies, particular regard was

face, and destin'd for the Ynca's bed, the same day. The young prince, happening to meet her at her arrival, was enchanted with her beauty; and the fatal poison of love, in a moment, infused itself into his heart, and mastered it in the most absolute manner. His duty to his father, and the obligations exacted from him by religion, made but a feeble opposition to the glowing sallies of a young man, who, till that instant, had never known any law but the impetuosity of his desires. As he found himself enamoured to distraction, he approached the select virgin, and had the presumption to acquaint her with his passion. But the lady, whose modesty and virtue were equal to the charms of her person, only answered him with an aspect of severity, capable of disconcerting any man who had not renounced every impression of humanity.

had to their beauty, as well as birth. They were likewise to be virgins; and for the greater certainty of their enjoying this qualification, they were chosen under the age of eight years. They liv'd in perpetual virginity; and, in order to that, were secluded from all intercourse with the world. All mankind were debarred their sight and conversation; and none but the Coya, that is to say, the queen, and her daughters, ever entered their house: for tho' the Ynca, in the quality of king, had this prerogative; he abstained from exerting it, lest any should have the temerity to follow his example. But in several parts of the empire there were other mansions of select virgins, that gave reception, indifferently, to all sorts of young maids, whether they were of the royal blood or not, or whether they were bastards, or legitimate, or even born of strangers. These were destin'd to be the daughters of the sun, or mistresses to the Ynca; and it is one of these our history now treats of.

This air of resentment did but add flame to the prince's criminal desires; and he meditated how to gratify them at any event. He addressed himself to the select virgin's governess, and partly by promises, partly by threats, engaged her to assist him in his passion. It was agreed between them, that the young lady should be fraudulently conducted towards the apartment of the prince; which was a stratagem easily to be accomplished, since she had never been in the palace till that day. The governess led her apart, under pretext of giving her some necessary instructions; and, when she had insensibly brought her to the place where the prince expected her, she abandoned her to his guilty transports.

The daughter of the sun was dismissed from the prince's arms, with a face covered with confusion, and a heart racked with despair. Without knowing where she went, she entered into the first chamber she found open, and there, in agonizing tears, deplored the prince's crime, and her own misfortune. When her governess came to acquaint her, that, by the king's command, she was to be immediately introduced to his majesty, the afflicted fair one wiped away her tears; and, after she had taken a little time to recover her soul from the agitations that affected it, she suffered herself to be conducted, with a seeming tranquillity, to the Ynca's apartment.

Her intentions were to make her governess feel

feel the first effects of her vengeance: and, therefore, when she beheld herself in the presence of the king, who imputing the trouble that was still visible in her eyes, to her virgin modesty, stretched out his hand to recover her from her confusion: "Turn away, said she, turn away, my lord, those eyes from a wretched object of woe! I am not only unworthy to appear before you, but do not even deserve the life I enjoy. The woman your majesty beholds, added she, pointing to her governess, has, by a base compliance, betrayed me to the guilty passion of your son. I demand the death of this criminal, as an act of justice to her, and compassion to myself: her treason is certainly unpardonable, and I cannot survive my disgrace. It is but too evident, that I am rendered guilty by the law, since I have suffered such a violation of my honour."

The Ynca was extremely surprised at this discourse; but, without discovering the least emotion, he ordered the select virgin to retire into an adjoining chamber, and commanded the governess to return to her own apartment, and continue there till his farther orders: he then caused a council, which was composed of the principal Yncas of his court, to be assembled, and bitterly complained to them of the new crime committed by his son. "There is an end, said he, of all religion and government, if I permit an offence like this to be

“ acted with Impunity. I can no longer be-
“ hold a monster, who has insulted the sun my
“ parent, in one of his daughters, and disho-
“ noured me in my own palace. The mea-
“ sures of his iniquities is now full ; and I am
“ determined on a vengeance proportionable
“ to the enormity of the crime. Let each of
“ you, added he, give me his sentiments with
“ the greatest freedom.”

When the king had ended his discourse, the most antient of the Yncas declared their opinions after each other ; and were unanimous in their thoughts. “ Your majesty, said they, “ is acquainted with what the law ordains. “ Every daughter of the sun, who is disho- “ noured in her chastity, is to be buried alive ; “ and the man who corrupted her, is to be “ hanged. This law goes yet farther : The “ criminal, his wife and children, his servants, “ his relations, and all the inhabitants of the “ town where he dwelt, even to the very in- “ fants at the breast, are to be involved in the “ punishment of the offence. The very town “ is to be razed to the ground, and the ruins “ whelmed under a heap of stones ; that it may “ remain desert and desolate thro’ its whole “ extent, and be abandoned to the curses and “ execrations of all the world. But this law, “ continued they, was only given to inspire “ the subjects with terror, and preserve them “ from the temerity of violating a virgin con- “ secrated to the sun, the god and father of
“ their

“ their kings. And tho’ it may be justly
 “ said, that the prohibition to sully the ho-
 “ nour of the select virgins, extends to sons
 “ of the Yncas, as well as to their subjects ;
 “ ’tis however certain, that the quality of the
 “ persons ought to make a difference between
 “ their crime in this particular : the injury be-
 “ ing greater or less in its aggravations, in
 “ proportion to the disparity that is to be
 “ found between the offender and the party
 “ aggrieved ; and consequently the crime com-
 “ mitted by the prince, who is the first per-
 “ son in the empire, after your majesty,
 “ should not be expiated by the same pe-
 “ nalty which ought to be inflicted on a
 “ man of the lowest birth. We are therefore
 “ of opinion, that your majesty should con-
 “ tent yourself with disgracing your son, for
 “ some time : ’tis incumbent on you to ba-
 “ nish him from your presence ; and if this
 “ punishment should not render him wiser for
 “ the future, you may then disinherit him,
 “ and nominate for your successor another of
 “ your sons, who does not degenerate from
 “ the virtue of his ancestors.”

The advice of the young Yncas was not so moderate. They all cried out that the prince ought to die, that the empire might be delivered from a tyrant, and the royal family from a member that stained it with dishonour. They acknowledged, indeed, that a first offence might be pardoned ; but at the same time main-

maintained, that as the prince, instead of reforming his irregular behaviour, suffered himself to be daily abandoned to new excesses, his life could not have too short a duration, lest the number and enormity of his crimes should draw down the displeasure of the sun upon the family of the Yncas, and the whole empire.

The elders in the assembly, who foresaw the fatal consequences that might attend the death of the prince, demanded of the young Yncas, if they were certain to find one man in all the kingdom, bold enough to plunge his dagger in the heart of their monarch's son? And should they happen to meet with such a person, could they undertake to appease the sedition such a punishment would infallibly raise among the people? "No, Sire, added they, let us not flatter ourselves with the possibility of finding, among all your subjects, any man who will presume to stretch his hand against the prince. Whoever should but dare to think of such an action, ought doubtless to be persuaded, that the earth would open, in a moment, and swallow down both him and all his relations, with the very city and province that gave him birth."

Whether the Ynca was sensible of the danger he should incur, by treating the prince with too much severity; or whether some remains of tenderness for his son gave a check to his vengeance, he resolved to conform himself to the

the advice of the elders : to which effect, he disgraced the prince, and banished him some years from the court ; threatening, if he did not change his manner of life, to disinherit him, and receive another of his children into his place. As to the select virgin, whatever reluctance she had to survive her shame and dishonour, the Ynca omitted nothing capable of affording her any consolation. He gave her to understand, that as her fault was involuntary, she could not be censured, with any justice. He made her several considerable presents ; and, some time afterwards, gave her in marriage to the governor of the province of Chuncuri. But the governess, who by an infamous treachery, had prostituted the daughter of the sun, was sentenced to be buried alive.

The prince (for the name he assumed in his exile was unknown) was banished to a great park called Chitta, and which was laid out in a variety of fine pastures, replenished with a vast number of flocks and herds, consecrated to the sun. He was commanded for his punishment, to tend these cattle, with the other shepherds and herdsmen, who were enjoined to have a watchful eye over his conduct, and be very careful to prevent his escape.

The disgraced prince passed three years in this rural life ; but at the conclusion of that period, when it was least expected, he one day about noon, and without any attendants, entered the palace of the Ynca his father, and
immedi-

immediately caused his arrival to be notified to the king; adding, that he came charged with a particular embassy to his majesty.

The Ynca was exceedingly enraged at these tidings, and refused to favour his son with the audience he desired: but commanded him, by one of his courtiers, to return to his place of exile; adding, that if he hesitated the least in his compliance, he should suffer immediate death, for his rebellion against the orders of his sovereign; orders which he was sensible none were ever suffered to violate, even in the most inconsiderable circumstance.

These menaces made but little impression on the prince; who replied, that he was not come to infringe his majesty's commands, and that he only paid obedience to another Ynca, who was as great a prince as his father, and had sent him to discover some particulars, of the utmost importance, to the king. If his majesty, added he, would be informed of what I have to relate to him, I desire nothing more than his permission to approach him: but if he has no such inclination, I have acquitted myself of my commission, and shall return to him who dispatched me to this place; and give him an account of the answer I have received.

The Ynca, astonished at the bold reply of his son, and still more, at his affirming that he was sent by as great a prince as himself, gave orders, at last for his admittance: for he was curious to know who could be so presumptuous

sumptuous to employ his son on messages of such a nature; and already determined to punish the criminals, as soon as he had any knowledge of them.

The prince, when he was introduced, presented himself before his father, with an air of great intrepidity. My lord, said he, permit me to acquaint you, that this day, a little before noon, as I reposed myself under one of the rocks in the park of Chitta, where, in obedience to your commands, I tend the cattle of your father the sun, a phantom appeared to me in the form of a man. I was uncertain whether I then slept, or was awake. This person was habited in a strange manner; and the air of his face was very different from ours. His beard was of an extraordinary length; his robe flowed over his body from his neck to his feet. In his right-hand he held a rein, with which he led an animal, that, to me, was entirely unknown. This man, advancing to me, uttered these expressions: " My nephew, I am the son of the sun, and the brother of the Ynca Mango Copac; I am likewise the brother of Coya Mama Oello Huaco, his wife and sister, the first of your ancestors; and consequently am the brother of your father, and you are all my brethren. My name is Viracocha Ynca. I am come to this place, by the order of the sun our parent, to give you very important advice, which you must communicate to the Ynca my brother.

“ ther. You must know, that most of the
 “ provinces of Chinchafuyu, which are part
 “ of his empire, as well as many other pro-
 “ vinces that are not subject to him, have
 “ taken up arms, with an intention to dethrone
 “ him, and lay the city of Cusco, the capital
 “ of our kingdom, in ruins. Hasten then to
 “ the Ynca my brother, and direct him, from
 “ me, to prepare for the prevention of these
 “ calamities, and use what remedies he shall
 “ judge most efficacious. As to your particular,
 “ be assured, that whatever difficulties you
 “ may hereafter happen to be engaged in, I
 “ will never forsake you. No, I will certainly
 “ assist you in the hour of need, as one who
 “ is part of my own flesh and blood. Never fear
 “ then to undertake the greatest affairs, pro-
 “ vided they be worthy of your race, and the
 “ grandeur of your empire: and remember
 “ that I will always be favourable to you;
 “ that I will guard you with my constant de-
 “ fence, and send you all the succours that
 “ shall be necessary to your condition.” The
 Yncha Viracocha, continued the prince, had
 scarce finished this discourse, when he disap-
 peared: and I immediately came to acquaint
 your majesty with what he commanded me to
 declare.

The king judged all this language to be mere
 extravagance; and, instead of crediting his
 son, was greatly incensed against him. Thou
 givest me, said he, a new proof of thy depraved
 dis-

disposition, and art come to amuse me, in a serious manner, with the fables thou hast invented, with an intention to make thy dreams pass for the revelations of the sun my father. Be gone, this moment, to Chitta; and if hereafter thou shalt dare to depart from thence, without my permission, expect to feel the effects of my just displeasure. As such meances admitted of no reply, the prince returned to reassume his pastoral charge, in the park of Chitta, where he continued three months.

However, the Ynca's brothers and uncles who were generally near his person, fancied they discovered something mysterious in the prince's relation. They were too much addicted to superstition, and particularly with respect to dreams, to entertain any other thoughts*; and they believed themselves obliged to intimate their fears to the king, without any reserve. Sire, said they, you cannot with any appearance of reason, condemn the advice which has been imparted to you from the Ynca your brother. There is not the least probability that the prince would invent the particulars he has related. What advantage could he derive from such a proceeding? and if he had not any to expect, how can you imagine, that he would

* The Yncas, and all other Gentiles, were extremely superstitious, with regard to dreams; and especially if they had any relation to the king, the prince his heir, or the sovereign pontiff: for they esteemed those as so many gods and oracles.

commit such a sacrilege in the gaiety of his heart? and such it would be, to invent a discourse like this, to the dishonour of the sun your Father: and it would be a repetition of the crime, to impose, with a serious air, those inventions on his father and sovereign, for truths. We think it therefore necessary, to weigh the prince's words with deliberation, to offer sacrifices to the sun, to consult the gods and augurs, and use all imaginable diligence to discover the truth. To proceed in any other manner, would be to make ourselves wilfully obnoxious to the resentment of the sun; it would be a provocation offered to the Ynca Viracocha his brother; in short, it would accumulate one crime on the guilt of another.

Notwithstanding the solidity of this advice, the Ynca, was exasperated against his son, to such a degree as made him incapable of complying with the councils of his relations. He assured them it would be the greatest weakness to regard the discourse of a libertine wretch, who, instead of rendering himself worthy of his father's favour by a reformation of his disorderly conduct, was daily launching into new excesses:

“ This last proceeding, continued he, is alone,
 “ sufficient to induce me to disinherit him, and
 “ I am now come to that resolution. In a
 “ little time, I will chuse one of his brothers
 “ in his place, who, by his probity and gentle
 “ manners, has made himself the worthiest
 “ imitator of his ancestors, and best deserves
 “ the

“ the glorious title of the son of the sun. It
“ would be unreasonable to suffer a senseless
“ wretch to ruin, in a moment, all the glo-
“ rious establishments of the Yncas my prede-
“ cessors ; and it is much more important to
“ prevent a calamity like this, than to regard
“ the dreams of a rash criminal.” The Ynca
finished his discourse with injoining his relations
to mention this affair no more, because
nothing could be more displeasing to him, than
to hear any mention of such a son.

About three months after the phantom had
made its appearance, a confused report was
spread of the insurrection of the provinces of
Chinchafuyu, beyond Atahualla, which is
forty leagues northward of Cusco. The tidings
were, however, very uncertain, for it was im-
possible to discover the author ; and though
they have been anticipated by the relation the
prince Viracocha * made to his father, they
were despised by the king, who only regarded
them as a fictitious story, calculated with a
design to renew the discourse of the phantom,
who was now no longer the subject of any
conversation. Some days afterwards, the same
report spread still more, without any possibi-
lity of its being verified, because the enemies
had closely shut up all the passes, so that these

* This name was given to the eldest son of the Ynca
Yahuarhuacac, after he had seen the apparition in the
park of Chitta.

tidings were as doubtful as the former. But at last they were fully informed by a third account, that the nations known by the names of Chancas, Uramarcas, Vilcas, Ultusullas, Hanco-Huallas, and others, were revolted, and had put to death the governors whom the king had established over them, and that they were marching to besiege the city of Cusco, with an army of above forty thousand men.

All these nations were formerly subject to the Yncas, out of fear of their arms, rather than any inclination to obey them. They always retained an aversion to their sovereigns, and only waited for an opportunity to make it appear with effect. They now thought the favourable moment appeared, in the reign of the Ynca Yahuarhuacac; and were sensible, that warlike abilities were the least part of this prince's character; that his name kept him in perpetual alarms; that the reproachful conduct of his son, the Ynca Viracocha, constantly perplexed him to the greatest degree; and that he had even proceeded to disgrace that prince. These were the motives that induced them to assemble, with all expedition, and with as much privacy as possible, in hopes of surprising the Ynca in Cusco. Three brothers, the principal Curacas* of three great provinces, in the nation called Chanca, were the authors of the revolt. The first, whose name was Huaco Hualla, was a young gentlemen about six

* Curaca signifies, a lord of many vassals.

and

and twenty years of age, and was created general of the army. The second was called Tumay Huaracac; and the third, Astu Huaracac. The two last were appointed lieutenant-generals.

Nothing could equal the surprise and confusion of the Ynca Yahuarhuacac, when he heard the enemies were on their march. He could not persuade himself, that they were in a condition to revolt: for since the reign of the Ynca Mango Copac, to his own, none of the provinces conquered by his predecessors, had rebelled. This false security had prevented him from using the precautions necessary to allay the storm; so that he saw himself incapable of opposing his foes. He had no sufficient time to raise forces, and the city of Cusco was destitute of a competent garrison to defend it.

In this extremity, the Yncas resolved to give way to the fury of the rebels, till he had received such succours as might enable him to face them. To accomplish this, he proposed to retire to Collafuyu, where, at least, he might preserve his life, for he depended on the fidelity of the inhabitants of that province. With this intention, he departed from the capital of his empire, only attended by a few Yncas; but he advanced no farther than the pass of Muyna, six leagues from Cusco, and there discontinued his progress, that he might be more easily informed of the enemy's designs.

In

In the mean time, the city of Cusco was in the utmost consternation after the king's retreat. All the inhabitants were sensible of the danger; and there was no chief who presumed either to speak his sentiments, or undertake their defence. The people, to prevent the calamities that threatened them, fled from all parts, in search of some place to which they might safely retire. Chance conducted some of them to the prince Viracocha: they informed him of the rebellion of the inhabitants of Chinchafuyu, and the retreat of the Ynca his father who was in no capacity to resist his enemies, and prevent the desolation of his capital.

The prince was sensibly affected with these melancholy tidings, and thought it incumbent on him to use some expedient to avert the miseries that threatened the empire. He dispatched, to several parts, the inhabitants of Cusco who had found him in his solitude; and sent away several shepherds, who accompanied him, with orders to animate all the Indians they should happen to meet, and direct them as soon as possible, to join the Ynca their king, with all the arms they were capable of providing: after which, he bent his course towards Muyna, where the king his father had taken up his residence; and arrived there in a very short time.

He presented himself before the Ynca, covered with sweat and dust, and grasping a spear in his hand, My lord, said he, approach-

ing to him, is it possible, then, that the monarch of this empire should be moved by the false or real tidings of the rebellion of a few vassals, to abandon this city and palace, and fly from a people he never beheld? Can you patiently suffer the house of the sun your father, to be defenceless, and exposed to the power of the enemy? Can you permit it to be profaned by barbarians, and leave them to renew the abominations your glorious ancestors have abolished? Can you allow them to sacrifice men, women and children, and commit the most enormous sacrilegès, in that sacred place? But if you can bear such insults as these, what account will you render of the virgins consecrated to the sun? How shall they preserve that chastity to which they are devoted? What can hinder them from being victims to the brutality of the hostile soldiers? Should the desire of prolonging our lives a few days, prompt us to consent to such calamities? Permit them who will! For my part, I will confront the enemy; and sooner be hewed in a thousand pieces, than ever suffer them to enter Cusco. I cannot be an indolent spectator of the cruelties and abominations those barbarians will commit in the capital of this empire, founded by the god of day and his descendants. Let all who interest themselves in the glory of our parent the sun, follow me. If with their assistance I cannot chase away the foe, I will, at least, teach them to end their lives by an honourable death.

He

He did not stay for the king's answer; but, without taking any refreshment, immediately marched towards Cusco: however, he had the satisfaction to observe, that this discourse had awakened the courage of the Yncas of the blood royal, who accompanied the king in his retreat. They followed him, to the number of above five thousand; and none but some aged men, who were useless in war, remained with the Ynca. This little army was likewise, reinforced, in their march, by multitudes who had abandoned the city of Cusco. As soon as it was known that the prince Viracocha resolved to defend the capital of the empire, and the house of the sun, one might behold them returning with emulation; at the same time promising to sacrifice their lives, rather than forsake their prince.

As there was no time to be lost, the Ynca Viracocha ordered all those who had joined him, to follow with the utmost expedition; and thus, instead of making any stay at Cusco, he took the road of Chincasuyu, thro' which he knew the enemy was marching: and this he did, in order to throw himself between their army and the city. He intended to attack them, notwithstanding the inequality of his forces; and to die gallantly, rather than behold the house of the sun profaned by barbarians.

He halted in a spacious plain, half a league to the north of the city; and his army then consisted of eight thousand men, who were all de-

termined

term
The
were
pass
same
natu
confi
prov
twen
by th
ras, A
him.

N
had
chua
disco
not f
these
of th
the f
had y
Ynca
publi
inter
the t
were
recou

Th
as an
cha,
and t
to be
espou
Vo

terminated to conquer, or fall with their prince. They were, there, informed, that the enemies were nine or ten leagues from Cusco, and had passed the great river Apurimac; but, at the same time, they had tidings of a very different nature: for the prince received intelligence, that considerable succours were sent to him from the province of Cantisuyu; and that a body of about twenty thousand men, composed of the nations by the name of Quechuas, Cotopampas, Cotaneras, Aymaras, and others, were marching to join him.

Notwithstanding the precautions the enemy had used to conceal their rebellion, the Quechuas, and other neighbouring nations, had discovered it: but as they believed they had not sufficient time to acquaint the Ynca with these transactions, and receive his orders, they, of their own accord, formed an army of all the forces they could assemble. These people had voluntarily submitted to the empire of the Ynca Copac Yupanqui. Their zeal for the public welfare, the consideration of their own interest, and the apprehensions of falling under the tyranny of the Chancas, to whom they were mortal enemies, animated them to have recourse to arms.

The Ynca Viracocha considered this event, as an effect of the promise of his uncle Viracocha, who appeared to him in the park of Chitta; and took occasion from it to exhort his people to be courageous, because their interest was espoused by a god, who had already sent them

a powerful assistance, and intended to combat at the head of the army. By this discourse he animated his soldiers to such a degree, that there was not one who did not look upon a victory as infallible.

During these transactions, the succours, that were impatiently expected, joined the army; and the prince received them with the greatest demonstrations of joy: but his caresses were chiefly paid to the Curacas of each nation, and their leaders; he applauded their fidelity, and promised the soldiers to recompense the signal services they had rendered him on this important occasion.

After the Curacas had adored their Ynca Viracocha, they acquainted him, that, in order to come to his assistance with the greater expedition, they had left five thousand men, two days march from thence. The Ynca, upon this information, held a council of war with his kindred; and it was there resolved, that the Curacas should be ordered to acquaint the auxiliary troops, by an express, of all that had passed; and directed them to hasten their march to certain eminences in the neighbourhood, where they should form an ambuscade, and observe the motions of the enemy. It was added, that if the rebel army seemed disposed for battle, those troops should watch the proper time to charge them in the rear, whilst the Ynca, and his allies, attacked them in the front; but if they did not see the armies en-

gaged,

gaged, they should continue in their ambuscade, and be perpetually upon their guard.

Two days after these new succours had possessed themselves of the situations pointed out to them, the van-guard of the enemy was discovered on a rising ground near Rimac Tampu; for, being informed that the Ynca Viracocha was six leagues from them, they continued their march, and ordered their rear-guard to advance. These latter joined them at Sacfahuana, three leagues and a half from the prince Viracocha; who sent deputies thither, to offer them a general pardon, if they would return to their duty, and promise, for the future to live in peace with the Yncas.

But the Chancas, who knew that the Ynca Yahuarhuacac had abandoned the city of Cusco, and fled with great precipitation, judged this proceeding of the son to be only a bravado, and refused to give his deputies an audience, dismissing them without hearing their proposals. The next day they decamped from Sacfahuana, and marched directly towards the Ynca's army; but notwithstanding their utmost diligence, the order of battle, which they were obliged to observe, prevented them from coming up to him before night.

The prince Viracocha, seeing the enemies so near him, dispatched new messengers to offer them his pardon once more; but this deputation had no better effect than the former. The Chancas, who were already encamped, and

flattered themselves with an approaching victory, refused to admit the deputies into their presence, and only ordered them to be acquainted, that the next day would discover whose province it was to command, and who had a right to offer pardon.

That day had no sooner begun to dawn, than the two armies ranged themselves for battle, with loud cries, accompanied with the sound of hautboys, cornets, timbrels, and trumpets *. The Ynca Viracocha put himself at the head of his forces, and was the first who charged the enemy. Each army discovered an equal ardour. The Yncas, who accompanied their prince, formed a batralion around him, which presented a very formidable appearance. The Chancas sustained the shock with a wonderful intrepidity; and the combat lasted till noon, whilst victory seemed to declare for neither host.

In the mean time the five thousand men, who formed the ambush, charged the right wing of their foes so seasonably, and with so much vigour, that they obliged them to give way, and retreat with some precipitation: notwithstanding which the Chancas, far from being intimidated with this disgrace, exerted a greater vi-

* These instruments were used in war, in order to strike the enemy with consternation. The Indians imagined, that the power of their god gave these instruments of music two contrary effects; one to charm their ears with harmony, the other to inspire their enemies with terror.

vacity.

vacuity. Their mortification to see the victory, with which they had flattered themselves, began to waver, roused them to such a degree, that in a few moments they regained the ground they had lost.

The combat being thus restored to its former equality, continued two hours longer with great vigour, and little disparity on either side. One circumstance alone decided the advantage: for, in the heat of the battle, all the stones and trees in the plain were transformed into men* armed for the defence of their prince. This new succour which the sun, to accomplish his promise, sent to the Ynca Viracocha, disconcerted the Chancas: they were unable to stand against such superior forces; their ranks were broken, and all their army thrown into disorder.

They disputed the battle, however, for some time, like desperate men, who were now determined to die gloriously: but, at last, they all fled in confusion, and the Ynca remained master of the field. The enemies were pursued in their flight, till they acknowledged themselves overcome; and then the prince, that he might not seem as inhuman as the Barbarians,

* The Yncas were very dextrous in illustrating their adventures by astonishing circumstances. When the Ynca Viracocha fought for the defence of the house of the sun, he was, from time to time, reinforced by fresh supplies from Cusco, or the adjoining cities; and, from thence, took occasion to propagate the report, that the stones of the country were, by the sun's permission, changed to men, armed for his defence.

caused a retreat to be sounded : he went in person through the field of battle, ordered the wounded to be dressed, the dead to be interred, and gave the prisoners liberty to return home.

During the combat, which continued above eight hours, such a deluge of blood was shed, that the waters of a little river were all discoloured, and considerably swelled by the crimson torrent : for which reason, the plain, where the battle was fought, was afterwards called, *Yahuar Pompa*, which signifies, the field of blood. The slain were computed to exceed thirty thousand; of which number the *Ynca* lost eight thousand, and the rebels the rest. The general of the latter, and the two lieutenant-generals, were taken prisoners, and reserved to grace the triumphant entry, which the conqueror intended to make into the capital of the empire.

The *Ynca Viracocha*, dispatched three messengers to carry the news of this great victory, to different parts. The first was sent to the house of the sun, to render the most grateful acknowledgments to him, for his assistance in the enemy's defeat. The second had it in charge to inform the priests, and those of their order who had fled, that nothing more was incumbent on them, than to return to the temple of the sun, to thank him for his protection, and offer new sacrifices to his divinity; he was also to acquaint the select virgins, that the sun, through the merit of their prayers, had grant-

ed victory to the prince. The third was commissioned to find out the Ynca Yahuarhuacac, and give him a full relation of all that had passed, and earnestly entreat him not to leave the place of his present residence, till the prince's return to his majesty.

The prince, having dismissed the messengers, made his army pass before him in review; after which he kept about his person seven thousand men, selected out of his best troops, and then disbanded the rest. As to the Curacas, he promised them an acknowledgment, suitable to the service they had rendered him: he then appointed two of his uncles his lieutenant-generals, with orders to follow him.

Two days after his victory, he marched thro' the country with his little army, intending to visit his enemies, and relieve them, by his presence, from the apprehensions they might suffer by the consciousness of their guilt. With this intention, he hastened his march into the province of Antahuaylla, the country of the Chancas; and, at his arrival, was surprised with a spectacle that charmed him exceedingly: for he beheld, just before him, a mixed multitude of women and children, bearing green boughs in their hands; and, at small intervals of time, crying out, O great and only sovereign, offspring of the sun, and friend of the poor, pity our condition, and pardon our crimes!

The prince received them with the most engaging goodness; and gave them to under-

stand, that their fathers and husbands were the authors of all their misery, but that he vouchsafed his pardon to every rebel, and only came thither to grant a general indemnity for whatever had passed. He recommended to their particular care, those widows and orphans, who had lost their fathers and husbands, in the battle of Yahuar Pompa.

In this manner he took a progress thro' all the provinces that had revolted, and, in each of them, established governors, on whose fidelity he could safely depend. He left garrisons, in some places, to protect them, in case of need; and having thus provided for the defence of the country, he hastened his return to Cusco, loaded with the blessings of the people, who, instead of these instances of mercy, expected nothing less than a general massacre.

The prince arrived at the capital, in the space of one moon* after he last had left it. He chose to make his entry on foot, to convince the inhabitants, that the quality of a soldier was more amiable to him than the title of a monarch. He was surrounded by his martial troops, and walked between his uncles, the two lieutenant-generals: the captives, who were reserved to grace his triumph, marched slowly, with an air of dejection, behind their conqueror.

* The Indians compute their months by the revolution of the moon.

The people received the victorious prince, with all the acclamations and evidences of joy, that the sight of a deliverer could inspire. The aged Yncas advanced to meet him; and after they had paid their adorations to him, as son of the sun, they mixed with the soldiers, to have a part in the triumph. Alas, cried they, why were not we young enough to share the glory of combating under so heroic a captain! The Coya Mama Chicya his mother, attended by his sisters, aunts and cousins, and followed by a vast number of the Pallas*, soon afterwards received him with songs of festivity, and all the marks of a profound respect: some of them embraced him, with the most endearing tenderness; others gently wiped away the sweat that bedewed his face, and the dust that covered and incommoded him; most of them scattered fragrant herbs and flowers in his way.

The prince, with all his court, went to the temple of the sun; and made his entrance with his feet bare, in conformity to the custom: he there offered up his grateful acknowledgments to that glorious luminary, for the happy success with which he had prospered his arms. He afterwards visited the select virgins; and when he had performed all the proper ceremonies, he thought it time for him to return to the Ynca Yahuarhuacac, in the país of Muna, where he had lately left him.

* This name was appropriated both to the married and maiden princesses of the blood royal.

The father did not vouchsafe to his son that reception which seemed due to the merit of his victory; he assumed an air of seriousness and solemnity, that was far from intimating a perfect satisfaction. However, it was not easy to determine, whether jealousy at his son's glory, or shame at the recollection of his own unmanly indolence, or fear, lest the young conqueror should deprive him of his throne, moved him to treat the prince in such a manner. Perhaps each of these passions had its influence; and their united impressions might produce that sullen air, which gloomed in his countenance.

Whatever might be the cause, their conversation, in this public interview, was of a very short continuance. But when the rest of the company were withdrawn, they discoursed together for a considerable time; but the subject of their conference was a secret to all the world. It has been imagined, that they debated which of the two should sway the scepter, the father or the son; and this opinion received some confirmation, when it was known, that the prince refused to let his father return to Cusco, which he had been so pusillanimous as to abandon; and doubtless this pretext alone, seemed to the son a sufficient inducement to dethrone his parent, who was then in no condition to oppose the resolution of the Ynca Viracocha; because he was informed, that the Ynca, as well as the capital of the empire, favoured his son's pretensions; and thus either through weakness

of

of mind, or apprehensions of a civil war, the unfortunate father was constrained to accept the conditions imposed on him by the prince.

The stipulations between them being settled, the Ynca Viracocha gave orders for a stately palace to be erected in the pass of Muyna and Quiespicancha; and took care to improve the delightful situation, with all the advantages and embellishments that could be desired in a royal palace: the eye was ravished with a beautiful variety of parks and gardens, woods and artificial waters; whilst the river Yucay intermixing its pure streams with these lovely objects, diffused new charms through all the delicious prospect.

Whilst the new palace employed the skill of the artist appointed to compleat it, the Ynca Viracocha took up his residence at Cusco. It was then that he quitted the yellow border, for one that was red*; and yet he had so much moderation, as not to permit his father to resign that mark of royalty. But tho' the king continued to wear that honourable badge of empire; yet the reins of government were intirely in the prince's hands.

As soon as the palace was finished, the prince furnished his father with every thing necessary to the conveniencies and satisfaction of life. He

* The border was an ornament for the head, peculiar to the Ynca and his eldest son; and was properly a bandage of wool, in the form of fringe, which covered the forehead from temple to temple. The Ynca wore a red, and the prince his son, a yellow border.

assigned him a train of attendants, suitable to his high rank, and left him destitute of nothing but the regal power.

The Ynca Yahuarhuacac, notwithstanding all these enjoyments, was far from tasting any tranquillity in his solitude. He became insensible of all the pleasures his retinue were assiduous to procure him: he resigned himself to gloominess of soul, and melancholy musings, which in a little time plunged him into despair. He could not turn his thoughts to the throne, from whence he had been obliged to descend, nor meditate on the conduct of his son, without starting into distraction. In the day, he was tormented with sad and painful reflections; and the night discomposed him with dismal visions, which seemed to threaten him with new misfortunes: so that he, at last, resolved, by poison, to put an end to his days, that were rendered insupportable by the bitterness of affliction. It was with difficulty, indeed, that he came to this determination; and the fear of displeasing his parent the sun, dissuaded him from it for some time. He was ashamed to commit a crime, which he had punished in his subjects, with the utmost severity: for, during all his long reign, he had been indefatigable in his endeavours to exterminate the pernicious use of poison in his dominions; and could not, without the greatest mortification, reflect, that he was preparing, by his own example, to destroy, in one moment, all the good he had been

been establishing in several years*. But his despair made all the reflections unavailing: he prepared the fatal draught, with his own hand; and was now ready to raise it to his lips, when the moon †, touched with the crime her son was hastening to commit, endeavoured to prevent his perishing in so fatal a manner.

There happened to reside, in the college of the select virgins of Cusco, a young lady about seventeen years of age, called Acllahua, which signifies, the mansion of the stars. She received this name, to intimate the sparkling vivacity of her eyes, whose lustre was insupportable to every beholder. This lady, from her early years, had made history and poetry her favourite studies; and the hymns she composed, in honour to the sun, were thought preferable to those of the greatest poets. She perfectly remembered all the antient and modern transactions that had been related to her

* Among the Indians were numbers of both sexes, who made it their profession to destroy others by poison; some kinds of which operated by a sudden, others by a lingering death: they had other sorts which would deprive the persons they were practised upon, of their reason, and disfigure their countenances to a horrid degree of deformity. Sometimes, these pernicious ingredients would cover the whole body with black and white pustules, that crippled all their limbs. The Yncas were solicitous to prevent such practices among their subjects.

† The Yncas believed the moon to be the wife and sister of the sun; and as they called themselves sons of the sun, they were frequently stiled the sons of the moon too.

by

by her Mamacuna*; she likewise surpassed her companions in every manual art, wherein the select virgins were trained up: and all these amiable qualities were still heightened by her admirable modesty and solid virtue.

This accomplished person was treated, by the Mamacuna, with much more tenderness than the rest of the select virgins who were placed under her care. She was always in the presence of that venerable matron; who took a peculiar pleasure in bestowing new cultivations on a genius, that was so correspondent to all her cares.

One day, when they were together, the Mamacuna took notice, that Acllahua appeared extremely discomposed; she thought her countenance plainly intimated some inward dissatisfaction of soul. What may be the reason, my dear daughter, said she, that I see you, to day, without that serene and easy air, which used to be so peculiar to you?

Ah! my honoured mother, replied Acllahua, you relieve me from a great perplexity: for I was at a loss in what manner I should dispose

* This name, in general, signifies a woman appointed to discharge the functions of a mother, and is strictly applicable to those of the select virgins, who had grown aged in the college of the sun. The whole regulation of that college was consigned to their care: some of them were like abbesses of convents, and others resembled the superiors of noviciates: they instructed the younger select virgins in their divine worship, and taught them the various works of the loom and needle.

myself,

myself, to request a favour, which I most humbly entreat you to grant to me. You may speak, said the Mamacuna, without any reserve; and I will consent to all you desire, provided it be reasonable. You yourself shall judge, replied Acclahua. The affair is to prevent the Ynca Yahuarhuacac from drinking poison in despair: he is preparing to empty the fatal bowl; and his crime will infallibly draw down the displeasure of the sun on the royal family, the sacred city of Cusco, and all the empire of the Yncas. My dearest daughter, interrupted the Mamacuna, I must needs think your zeal for your country very commendable; but must likewise blame your indiscretion, for imagining a son of the sun capable of acting in so criminal a manner. But though the fact should be as you suppose, how would you take upon you to prevent it?

You shall have all the satisfaction you desire, said Acclahua. Last night I was waked out of my slumber by a dreadful dream, the particulars of which I have forgot; and can only recollect, that at the time I was repeating a hymn, I had composed in honour of the sun, I heard an extraordinary noise at my chamber door; when turning myself towards the place from whence the alarm proceeded, I beheld a shining arm, adorned with pearls, intermixed with emeralds of an admirable lustre. This arm moved towards me; though I could not discover the body to which it belonged.

When it was near my bed, it bended towards me, in a kind of salutation, and then folding itself round my waist, raised me up in a moment, and conveyed me to the pavilion of the moon*, where it placed me on a silver throne, at a little distance from the throne of the sun's consort, and near the bodies of the deceased queens†. My eyes were dazzled with the brightness that surrounded the face of the moon; and this glorious light made such an impression on my soul, as, for a few moments, suspended all its faculties. Such was my condition, when my ears were pierced with a loud and dreadful voice, that awakened me from my trance. "Give attention, Acclahua, said "this voice: the Ynca Yahuarhuacac is now "preparing to commit an enormous crime. "This prince, who was commanded by his "father the sun, to exterminate from the "empire of the Yncas the abominable use "of poison, is now determined to practise it "on himself. Should he perpetrate his reso- "lution, vengeance will fall heavy, not only

* Though the Yncas considered the moon as the sister and spouse of the sun, and even their own mother, yet they never ador'd her in the quality of a goddess; they neither offered sacrifices to her, nor erected temples in her honour. They only raised for her a great pavilion near the temple of the sun, to serve her for an habitation; and she was there painted on a plate of silver, with the face of a woman.

† In the pavilion of the moon, on each side of her picture, the bodies of the deceased queens were ranged in order, according to their seniority.

“ on him, but on the family of the Yncas,
“ and all their empire. The sun will, else-
“ where, establish other children, more
“ worthy of his blood; he will chuse other
“ adorers, other consorts, and another temple.”

I was so confounded with these menacing expressions, that I had no power to reply; but fell prostrate on the earth, before the throne of the moon, and uttered the anguish of my soul in sighs and tears. But whilst I was thus affected with sad impressions, the luminous arm that conveyed me thither, raised me from the ground, and placed me, once more, on the silver throne; and then a voice, very different from the former, for it was exceedingly soft and melodious, spoke to me in these terms.

“ O Acllahua, thou alone canst preserve the
“ empire of the Yncas from destruction. Go
“ then, without any hesitation, to the king
“ Yahuarhuacac; and endeavour, by the most
“ prevailing reasons, to dissuade him from
“ drinking the poison he has prepared. Tell
“ him, that a prince, and especially a son of
“ the sun, ought always to preserve an equal-
“ lity of mind, and be serene amidst all the
“ vicissitudes of fortune. Remember, Aclla-
“ hua, to take the cotton girdle, which you
“ will find on the bed in your apartment;
“ you will experience its virtue in the needful
“ hour.”

The voice had scarce uttered these expressions, when the luminous arm embraced me
anew,

anew, and conveyed me back to my chamber; where I really found the girdle that was promised me, and it is the very same you now see me wear.

The Mamacuna was seized with horror at this relation. Great gods! cried she, what do I now hear, and is it possible, daughter, you should entertain a thought of leaving this sacred mansion? Have you forgotten the conditions on which you were placed here, and the obligations to which you consented to be subject? As you are selected to be the spouse of the sun, you have devoted yourself to perpetual virginity; and are obliged to shun the sight, not only of men, but even women*: and you would now expose yourself to the promiscuous view of both! In what manner do you propose to be faithful to your engagements? Are you not very sensible, that the palace of the Ynca Yahuarhuacac is inhabited by men and women? Besides, have you considered the fatal consequence, to which your imprudent zeal will make you obnoxious; the moment you step out of this house, you are deemed guilty of adultery: the law is most express; and you will inevitably be entombed alive.

Yes, my dearest mother, replied Acllahua, I am sensible, both of my engagements, and the dangers to which I expose myself: but no con-

* The select virgins passed their whole lives in cloister, neither saw men or women: they had no communication with any but themselves; and none but the Coya, that is, the queen, and her daughters, were permitted to enter the college.

considerations

siderations are sufficient to intimidate or detain me. Should I be so fortunate as to dissuade the Ynca from his fatal purpose, what blessings shall I secure to my country by that important service! But should disappointment and death be the consequences of my attempt, I shall at least, enjoy the glory of having sacrificed myself for the welfare of my family, and all the nation.

No, interrupted the Mamacuna, I will never suffer the dearest of all the virgins confided to to my care, to perish by an ignominious death; and could you alledge reasons never so unanswerable, do not flatter yourself with obtaining my consent: nay, should you be certain of succeeding in your design, the Ynca will behold your excursion with horror, and will be the first to deliver you to the Ynca Viracocha, his son, who will sentence you to all the severity denounced by the law. Who then will defend you from that fate? and how reproachful will your conduct prove to religion! What a dishonour will you be to this holy habitation, and all your sisters, and with how much mortification will you affect your governess! Ah! my dearest daughter, added she with flowing eyes, if you have no apprehensions of the rigour with which you are threatened by the law, yet indulge a generous fear of afflicting me with the mortal pangs I must sustain, when I behold myself loaded with infamy, by the punishment of a select virgin!

The

The Mamacuna's tears made a tender impression on Acllahua; but as dreams were then regarded as certain prognosticks from whence infallible consequences could be drawn, with respect to the good or evil that might succeed, the select virgin was too great a proficient in her religion, to make her duty subservient to the sentiments of compassion that rose in her soul. I am under a necessity, said she, of obeying the commands of our mother the moon; and the calamities that threaten both ourselves and the empire, are much greater than those you presage from my intended conduct.

Your obstinacy, replied the Mamacuna, is perfectly surprizing; and you run blindly to your ruin. When people rashly expose themselves to apparent dangers, they ought to sink under the consequence; and when we grow discontented with our proper condition, we run the hazard of plunging ourselves into greater dissatisfactions.

I foresee, that you will suffer the same misfortune that befel the physician Uruya. He was in a happy situation, but very discontented; and ambition was his ruin. What happened then to this physician, interrupted Acllahua? I will make you acquainted with the particulars, replied the Mamacuna; and therefore direct your attention.

The HISTORY of the physician URUYA.

IN the reign of the Ynca Lloque Yupanqui, the third of our monarchs, a very famous physician, named Uruya, lived at Hatun-Collas, in the country of Collasuyu. The Ynca Lloque Yupanqui, who conquered that province, engaged this physician to attend him to Cusco, where he liberally supplied him with all the enjoyments necessary to make life agreeable. Uruya, encouraged by these favours, followed his profession very successfully for several years. The Ynca consulted him in all indispositions, that affected either himself or his relations; and daily loaded him with rich presents. But whether it be, that the greatest men are liable to the greatest disasters, or that ambition made Uruya dissatisfied with his fortune, he took it into his head to surpass all his fraternity. Till then, indeed, he had confined his labours, like them, to the cure of distempers; but now he imagined he should distinguish himself, if he could but invent a specific for all diseases. He was a long time engaged in this discovery; and applying himself to study the various constitutions of mankind, he gained a perfect knowledge of all plants and herbs, that were either salutary or injurious. At last, after a long and laborious search, he grew persuaded that he had found out the preservative he so passionately desired: it was an
extract

The

extract of several drugs, which he called the universal preservative; of which he made the first experiment on himself, and then recommended it to his neighbours and friends; who having used it with a seeming success, it obtained a general demand: every person was desirous to possess it; and the people contended who should bestow the greatest praises on the physician and his preservative. The fame of this wonderful discovery, being at last communicated to the Ynca Lloque Yupanqui, that prince had recourse to the remedy without the least hesitation, and used it as freely as his subjects. The court, the city, and the whole empire called for the miraculous specific. It was to be reduced to powder, and taken every morning and evening: they even mixed it with their food and drink; and several persons chewed it the whole day. By an effect of chance, no distemper was mentioned in Cusco for the space of three years, during which this madness prevailed: but as the best things, when they are abused, degenerate into poison, so these powders had that effect. The generality of those who had taken them, fell into a languishing disorder, and multitudes of them died. It was even with great difficulty, that the Ynca himself recovered; and now there wanted nothing more to open the people's eyes. Every one rejected the imaginary preservative, as a fatal poison. The physician was treated as a common murderer: all his zeal for the public

public
he was
gained
prived

The
Acclah
to war
would
A fals
therefo
resolut
destru
hua,
related
ention
histori
ice in
lary to
acqu
them
fine m
the N
as I re
very e
in her
delive

The

TH
na
Cusco
public

public good was unable to protect him; and he was condemned to die by the law, which ordained that punishment for every one who deprived another of life.

The Mamacuna now addressed herself to Acclahua: Daughter, said she, this history ought to warn you of the danger we incur, when we would perform actions beyond our abilities. A false prudence betrays us to our ruin: and therefore let me persuade you to change your resolution, and not be accessory to your own destruction. My dear mother, replied Acclahua, I see nothing in the example you have related, that should induce me to alter my intentions. I can give you a number of other histories, that will convince you of your injustice in opposing my design: but it is not necessary to relate them to you; for you are better acquainted with them than myself; and I owe them to your information. I will only confine myself to one instance, which I had from the Mamacuna your predecessor. One day, as I related some stories to her that she thought very entertaining, I desired her to give me one, in her turn. She consented to my request; and delivered herself to this effect.

THE STORY of the VASE of THREE METALS.

THE provinces called Charcas, beyond the narrow pass of Collasuyu, with respect to Cusco, were formerly governed by a prince of an

an amiable disposition, who feared the gods*, and whose only passion was to give happiness to his people. All persons had access to his presence, and he listened to the poor without any impatience or contempt; nor did he ever dismiss the unfortunate, without some consolation. But notwithstanding he was so indefatigable to accomplish his generous desires, he perpetually met with oppositions, that were in a manner invincible. He was frequently disturbed by his neighbours, who made inroads into his dominions, and carried off the greatest part of his people; whom they either devoured, or offered in sacrifice to their gods.

This good prince would some times endeavour to oppose the fury of his enemies by reprisals, but was generally repulsed with loss; but one of his greatest afflictions was an unknown distemper, that, from the time he first ascended the throne, had attacked his own family, and those of the principal lords of his provinces. The malady began with a kind of scurf, which from the crown of the head, gradually diffused itself over the whole body: it corroded the skin and flesh, infected the bones and ended in death. In vain had the physicians endeavoured to cure this distemper; their remedies, instead of assuaging, only added new force to the malignity.

The prince of the Charcas was so afflicted by the calamity which invaded his family, that

* The Charcas adored tygers and serpents.

by a public proclamation through all his dominions, and the neighbouring territories, he promised half of his provinces to any one who could cure his relations, and the lord of his court, of the distemper with which they were visited. Several physicians presented themselves on this occasion; but their prescriptions were altogether ineffectual. At last, a magician, named Churi, arrived at the palace; and being introduced to the king, Sire, said he, I have long been acquainted with the cause of that distemper, which afflicts your children, and the principal lords of your empire: but as it was needless to make it known to your majesty, unless I could have recommended an effectual remedy, I was obliged to be silent, that I might not drive you to desperation. In vain, for several years, did I consult the secrets of my art, to enable me to cure this leprosy. All my endeavours were defeated; and I became sensible, that the malady was to continue as long as its author was alive; and that the remedy, during all that period, would be unavoidably concealed. But that the impediment is now removed; and the magician is dead, who thus persecuted your family, in revenge for your refusing him, in marriage, one of your majesty's relations, whom he passionately loved. Two days are passed since I heard of his death: and the moment I was certain of the tidings, I left nothing unattempted to discover the remedy, which is of so much importance to your majesty.

After some operations, I discovered, that in the northern limits of your dominions, and on the highest mountain, named Utumcuna, there is a vessel composed of three metals, gold, silver, and copper, and which contains a balsamic liquor, proper to cure the leprosy, and all malignant defilements of the skin, and that this treasure can be acquired by no mortal, but one of your majesty's sons. However, added the magician, tho' the remedy be now discovered, there are many difficulties to be surmounted, before it can be obtained. The mountain, as you well know, is, in a manner, inaccessible: from the bottom to the middle, it is inhabited by tygers, and other fierce animals, who permit no human creature to approach with impunity; and from the middle to the top, the eye beholds nothing but ghastly rocks and precipices, that seem almost impracticable: so that it will require the greatest magnanimity and conduct to succeed in this enterprise.

The prince of the Charcas was exceedingly discomposed at the magician's speech: his colour frequently changed; he sometimes lifted up his eyes to heaven, and as often directed them to the earth. Is it possible, cried he, that any of my children should be able to surmount so many obstacles! I even think, that an hundred thousand men would be too insufficient for such an expedition; that they would all be devoured before they could reach the foot of

the mountain: such a remedy might as well have been concealed, as ever made known, without a possibility of enjoying it.

The magician, who saw the prince overwhelmed with melancholy thoughts, did his utmost to comfort him. Sire, said he, I have had the honour to intimate to your majesty, that intrepidity and prudence will conduct the adventurer to the top of the mountain. These qualities are certainly to be found in some prince among your children: but if not, they are never to be expected in any other mortal. A remedy of such importance may inspire any one with an inclination to obtain it. Let me see then, interrupted the prince, if any of my children will sacrifice himself for the welfare of his family. Let them all be admitted into my presence.

As soon as the prince was arrived, the magician, at the king's request, repeated to them all the particulars he had related to their father; and, at the close of his account, Princes, added he, if the danger has any circumstances that can intimidate you, consider you ought to be animated by the advantages that will attend the possession of the vase of three metals.

At these words, all the sons of the prince of the Charcas unanimously replied, that emulation, as well as interest, incited them to so glorious an enterprise. We ought, said they, to leave nothing unattempted to obtain such a treasure; and we would as soon chuse to be

by the wild beasts, or to perish among the precipices of the mountain, as to live in calamity, and see ourselves the reproach of our nation.

The prince of the Charcas was alarmed to find all his children, who were forty-five in number, resolved on the adventure of the mountain; he reflected that they might, possibly, be all hastening to destruction. It is no way necessary, said he, for every one of you to expose himself. Divide yourselves into two equal companies; and let the one continue with me, whilst the other employ their courage and address for the general welfare. No, my father, replied the youngest, in the name of the rest; as we are equally interested in the cure, we intend to share the same danger, and will contend for the glory of preserving one another. At least, interrupted the prince of the Charcas, suffer me to prevail on you to draw lots, and let one of you remain here to comfort my declining age, and succeed to my dominions when I am dead. The magician now interposed: my lord, said he, that would be a vain precaution; for the lot perhaps might fall on him who is destined to make the vase of three metals his prize.

When the prince saw that he could neither prevail on the magician, nor his own children; Go then, said he, and may the gods accompany you with their protection. I have only one thing to recommend to your observance:

let each of you be as solicitous to defend his brothers, as he would be to save himself.

The princes, after this, made the necessary preparations for their expedition: and when they had compleated them, they all departed in a body; every one being armed in the manner he imagined most advantageous.

It required a journey of six days to arrive at the mountain Urumcuna. The last day of their march they began to see troops of lions and tygers, of a monstrous size, bounding along the country: but that appearance had not sufficient terrors to make them proceed no farther, and they continued their progress with an heroic bravery of soul; at the same time sustaining several assaults, and leaving many of the furious animals dead on the earth. But as those enemies increased upon them, the farther they advanced, the eldest prince, who beheld twelve of his brothers wounded, proposed to them to return: if our approaches to the mountain, said he, are so dangerous, what may we not expect from the mountain itself? And if we find it so difficult in the plain, to preserve ourselves from being devoured, what defence will be left us in those ascents, where instead of sufficient liberty for our necessary motions, we must employ our utmost skill to walk steadily? Besides, what probability have we of gaining the summit of this mountain, and climbing up declivities that seem so impassible, as those before us? And who can be cer-

tain that, though we should be so fortunate as to surmount all these obstacles, we shall, at last, find what we are now searching for? What assurance have we of success? Why, truly, the word of a magician, as great a barbarian, perhaps, as he whose vengeance we all suffer; and who doubtless would willingly destroy us in this place. Had he that benevolence for us, which he pretended, ought he not himself, to procure the vase of three metals? But if this was an enterprise impossible for even a magician to perform, how can we flatter ourselves with any success?

All the princes except the youngest approved of this discourse. For my part, said this latter, nothing shall make me consent to so dishonourable an action: I neither fear the rage of lions and tygers, nor the difficult ascent of these rocks; and will sooner die than return: and tho' you all should forsake me, I shall not cease to try my fortune. And should I not succeed in my attempt, I shall have this consolation in death, that I have done the most for my king, my family, and my country.

The princes were extremely mortified at a contradiction, that so reproached their own timidity. The youngest, said they, affects to be the wisest among us; and is ambitious of the glory of being the last in returning. Let us leave him then to himself: when once he is alone, he will learn by experience, that a particular folly is not to be set in competition with

the

the general prudence. Upon this, they began their march; leaving the mountain behind them, and returning by the way they came.

In the mean time, Apuquepa, for that was the young prince's name, ascended the mountain with a steady pace, and with his lance, overthrew in the dust, the first lion who came in his way; and being immediately assaulted by another, he mortally wounded him with the same weapon. But the lion, being rolled by his own weight to the bottom of the mountain, dragged with him the lance of the young hero; who, as he was preparing to recover it, saw two tygers springing towards him in all the fury of hunger. His destruction had now been inevitable, had he not resorted to other arms, with which he had the precaution to furnish himself. He took a trumpet that hung by his side, and sounded it with all his might, and so terrible was the blast, that both the tygers immediately fled. The prince was so animated by this happy experiment, that he had now no inclination to draw his lance out of the lion's body, but thought his trumpet a more infallible weapon. The event was answerable to his expectation, for as often as he saw any wild beast approaching, he blew the trumpet with his former success, and put all the lions and tygers to flight.

By this stratagem, the indefatigable prince arrived at the middle of the mountain, where he met with new difficulties, for which he was, however, prepared. But before he attempted

to ascend higher, he reposed himself, and eat a little maize, and some roots which he had brought with him; and having, by these refreshments, regained his vigour, he began to pursue his progress. Sometimes he was obliged to climb from one rock to another, and leap over wide clefts that opened a dreadful abyss before him; besides which, the stones frequently rolled from under his feet and hands, and, in their fall made such an astonishing noise, that it seemed as if all the mountain was tumbling into ruins. But the prince, no way discouraged with these terrors, hung sometimes by his hands, whilst his eyes were in search of another place, where he might fasten himself with more security. At last, by a length of pains and toil, he ascended so high, that he discovered the vase of three metals, at the foot of a very thick tree; the sight of which so transported him, that he forgot all the perils and labour he had sustained: and, falling on his knees, he returned thanks to the gods for the succours they had afforded him; after which, he made a short repast, and fell asleep for some time.

Apuquepa, when he waked, went to take up the vase, but found it strongly fastened to the foot of the tree, that diffused its boughs over it. He made several efforts to disengage it; but how great was his astonishment! when he beheld the tree, in proportion as he redoubled his strength, changing into a young lady of in-

com-

comparable beauty, and with whose features he was well acquainted. He was so struck with admiration at the sight, that he had no power to speak ; but the lady, who observed the discomposure into which this event had thrown him, began the discourse, and expressed herself in this manner.

Apuquepa, my dearest cousin ! may heaven for ever crown you with its blessings ! you have restored me to my liberty, for which may our gods condescend to reward you. The magician Rurac, not being able to obtain me in marriage, carried me away by force, one day as I was enjoying the cool air in the gardens of the prince your father, and my uncle. He conveyed me to his habitation, where I was shut up in a chamber nine days ; on each of which he visited me twice to entertain me with his passion, and entreat me to accept of him for my spouse : I rejected his suit with disdain, and loaded him with reproaches. The ninth day he assumed another tone ; if you will not, said he, very fiercely, this very day consent to offer me your hand, I shall treat you in a different manner from what I have yet done : but as I answered him only by my tears, I have punished your father, continued he, for opposing my demand, and all those, whose counsels have been any impediment to my marriage, are sharers of the same chastisement ; it only now remains, that I avenge myself on your disdain ; if you do not immediately present me with

your hand, as a testimony of your compliance with my desires, you shall feel the effects of my indignation. Act whatever you are capable of performing, replied I, death will be a thousand times more supportable to me, than the sight of an unjust ravisher.

The magician, mortified at this new reproach, cried out: 'Tis now too much, and I will be amply avenged. Upon which he immediately opened a calabash, which he held in his hand, and I saw it filled with a liquor as green as the verdure of the spring: he then sprinkled some drops of it on my head, and a chilling coldness instantly froze the blood in my veins, my feet became extended, like the root of a plant, and my arms and head shot out into branches covered with leaves. In vain I endeavoured to distinguish my body, I could only discover the trunk of a tree. In such a state did the magician place me on this mountain, and at my feet fixed the vessel you hold in your hands; and, after he had uttered some words which were not understood by me, he retired, and I have never seen him since.

Apuquepa being now freed from his perplexities by this discourse, Princess, said he, I think myself very fortunate in obtaining the vessel you mention; but the liberty to which I have restored you, compleats all my happiness. The princess was curious to know what treasure might be contained in that vessel, which had exposed him to so many dangers.

I shall

I shall have opportunity enough, said he, to give you that satisfaction; at present something of more importance demands our attention: let us see how we may best quit this place.

Apuquepa, in pronouncing these words, turned to the side of the mountain on which he ascended; but was strangely surpris'd to see the prospect entirely changed. Great gods, cried he, what do I behold! I see an easy and gentle descent, in the very place that, a moment before, presented frightful rocks and precipices to my view: and then addressing himself to the princess, Let us improve, said he, the favour offered by the gods. You have expressed my thought, replied the princess, and I was going to tell you, that we had a very agreeable way to walk down; and, if you did not discover it when you ascended, 'tis probable that the enchantment subsisted to the moment you seized the vase, which the magician placed at my feet; and this made the way, you should have taken, invisible.

The prince and princess proceeded without the least danger, to the middle of the mountain, and from thence to the plain. Apuquepa had recourse to his trumpet, to drive away all the wild beasts they met: and thus his fortitude and courage preserved him from such dangers, as any other mortal had certainly sunk under.

The rest of this history, said Acclahua, is not material to our purpose; and what I have

related is sufficient to prove, that the greatest perils should never discourage us, when we would avoid greater calamities. I shall only add, that if the prince Apuquepa made no scruple to expose his life on the word of a magician, I ought with less hesitation to risk mine, on the command I have received from the moon, the comfort of our god the sun.

Acllahua, at the conclusion of this discourse, placed her two hands on her right shoulder, which was one act of their adoration, and then bringing them lower, she without thinking on what she did thrust her right thumb into her girdle, with the virtue of which she was, as yet unacquainted. But at the same instant the luminous arm presented itself before her, and a soft harmonious voice was heard to utter these words: O Acllahua! I obey both the moon, and the wearer of that girdle. If you are desirous of going to the Ynca Yahurahua-cac, 'tis time for me to convey you to his palace: neither walls or gates shall exclude you, nor shall you be seen by any mortal, but the Ynca to whom you are sent.

Acllahau, before she made any reply to the voice, addressed herself once more to her Mamacuna. Had I not reason, said she, to be thus importunate with you? And now pardon me if I tell you, that it is in vain for to oppose my request. The Mamacuna, who beheld the luminous arm, and had heard the voice, was obliged to submit. She embraced
Acllahua,

Acllahua, with tears in her eyes; and after she had thrice kissed the air, which was another act of adoration, My dear child, said she, may our god the sun be propitious to you, and may the moon guide you in your way.

The Mamacuna still continued to speak, when Acllahua turning her eyes to the luminous arm, Let us now, said she, hasten to the Ynca Yahuarhuacac. The obsequious arm, immediately enfolding her body, rendered her invisible, and conveyed her to the Ynca's apartment in the palace of Muna.

The prince was raising the poison to his lips, the very moment Acllahua entered the chamber: but the virgin hastily advanced to him, and seizing him by the arm, Prince, said she, what are you about to commit? Do you no more remember, that you are the offspring of the sun? and can you be so degenerate as to disobey him? Can you, my lord, who during all your reign have been indefatigable to suppress the use of poison, as contrary to humanity; can you, I say, act so inconsistently with your former conduct? And is it possible an Ynca should flatter himself, that he may commit with impunity, the very crime for which he has severely punished such numbers of his subjects?

These cutting reproaches, joined with the Ynca's surprise to see a daughter of the sun in his apartment, prevented him from drinking off the fatal cup. He replaced it on the table, and

and viewing the young lady, whom he knew to be a daughter of the sun, because he had formerly seen her in the college of the select virgins at Cusco. Acllahua, said he, what do I now behold! Do you really live? or is it your shade that stands before me? I am lost in perplexity: for if you are still among the number of the living, by what means have you been able to quit the sacred college, where you was for ever consecrated to the sun? How was it possible for you to enter this chamber when the door was shut? But if you are no longer an inhabitant of this world, what have you to desire of an unfortunate prince?

O Ynca! replied Acllahua, I am not as yet numbered among the dead, nor is it necessary that I now should satisfy all your demands. 'Tis sufficient if I inform you that I am dispatched to prevent, if possible, your shortening your days by poison. The moon, your mother, has condescended to appoint me her messenger, to set before you the horrors of the crime you propose to commit, and the fatal consequences that will inevitably ensue. The son, your father, offended at the profanation offered him by one of his own progeny, will inflict his vengeance for your transgression in a remarkable manner: he will withdraw all his regard from the royal family, and utterly subvert the empire of the Yncas: he will consign the imperial city of Cusco to the rage of the barbarians; he will suffer his priest to be sacrificed to false gods, and abandon his cho-

sen

sen virgins to a shameful violation of their chastity. You alone will be the cause of all these abominations. Let me therefore conjure you, my lord, for your own and your peoples welfare, to calm your discomposure of soul; and live, O Ynca! for such is the will of the sun your father.

No! Acclahua, no! replied the Ynca, my resolution is already fixed. An unfortunate prince, and a more unfortunate father, can expect no consolations to reconcile him to life. I have suffered enough, and will no longer be a prey to so many calamities. I may even be reserved for sorrows, still more agonizing; but I am determined to prevent them.

Alas! my lord, answered Acclahua, the despair which now oppresses you, is a greater misfortune than any you would elude. Are you hardy enough to run the risk of an eternal state of wretchedness? who will cover you from the indignation of the sun, your father? Have you permitted your thoughts, my lord, to deliberate on these particulars? are the dishonours that afflict you, sufficient to justify your despair? Listen to the language of your reason: this will certainly condemn your inordinate conduct, and inform you, that 'tis advantageous to all mankind, and especially princes, to experience some adversity. This refines and polishes their virtues. How! interrupted the Ynca, do you call the loss of an empire, the rebellion of a son, and perpetual banishment, no more than some

some adversity? Are these the calamities to which virtue owes its refinement; or, rather, are they not such misfortunes as overwhelm and drive to desperation?

My lord, replied Acllahua, I will no longer represent to you the insult you offered to the sun your father, nor any more reproach you for murmuring against the determinations of Providence; I will content myself with acquainting you, that your words and actions discover an impotency of mind, not very consistent with your birth. There have been princes, without number, whose extraction was much inferior to yours, and whom we even rank among barbarians, and yet they have supported their adversity with a fortitude far superior to any you discover. I remember their histories, and with your majesty's permission, will offer one to your attention. You will see, that they, in a series of misfortunes, much more tedious and oppressive than those you repine at, have at last, by their constancy, triumphed over all their calamities, and never suffered themselves to be dejected by distress.

The Ynca was sensibly mortified by this discourse; the colour flushed into his face; and turning upon Acllahua, with an air of indignation: Perhaps you are not sensible, said he, that, as much dethroned as I am, I have still sufficient power to punish any one, who shall dare to insult me to my face; but since you have the temerity to compare the conduct of barbarians

barbarians with mine, I command you to relate to me, one of these histories. And should it appear, that the princes, of whom you are to speak, were less unfortunate than myself, and that their constancy of mind has not surmounted their adversity, you shall be punished for your insolence, and expiate your crime by death.

Acllahua was far from being intimidated with these threats. My lord, said she, I have advanced nothing inconsistent with truth; I desire no other judge than your majesty, and willingly subscribe before hand to my condemnation, if I be not punctual to my promise. We shall soon see that, replied the Ynca, who, at the same time, placed himself on a throne, and then turning to Acllahua, Be seated, said he, and let me hear the history you have mentioned. The select virgin was obedient to his commands, and began her relation in the following manner.

H O U R I.

The HISTORY of prince HIMAN, sovereign of the island of Titicaca.

About an hundred years before the Ynca Mango Copac, and his wife Mama Oello were sent down to the earth, to civilize the barbarous people, and train them up in the true religion; the sceptre of the island of Titicaca,

caca, and several of the neighbouring provinces, was swayed by a prince, who, though a barbarian, was so favoured by nature, as not to be unacquainted with the principles of humanity. His name was Himan; and he governed his subjects with so much wisdom and justice, that even the divine Mango Copac, might possibly have found nothing reproachable in any part of his conduct.

This prince had never been married; and though he was perpetually solicited to turn his thoughts to an heir, he obstinately refused to gratify the prayers of his people: and so fond was he of solitude, that, whenever he had dispatched the public affairs, he withdrew alone to a deep cavern, that served him instead of a palace. If, at any time, he happened to quit his retreat, which was but seldom, he then secluded himself, as much as possible, from his courtiers, that he might enjoy his own meditations in private; and when he found himself obliged to admit any company into his presence, such dejection appeared in his countenance, as plainly intimated a settled melancholy in his mind. The elders of the people, who were his officers and courtiers, were constantly saying to each other, What strange sadness is it, that thus affects our sovereign? He is respected by his neighbours; he is the darling of his people; all his words are regarded as oracles; we endeavour to divert him by all imaginable amusements; the loveliest virgins

in

g pro- in the kingdom are presented to his embraces ;
 though and yet his senses are so prepossessed, that he is
 as not indifferent to all things, and his melancholy
 of hu- seems to be altogether inconsolable.

he go- Though prince Himan had frequent intima-
 m and tions of these complaints, yet he intirely disre-
 Copac, garded them, and continually resigned himself
 proach- to the most pensive impressions. At last, the
 d ; and principal officers of his court grew weary of
 urn his expostulating to no purpose. They assembled
 fused to together, and ordered the first minister to en-
 so fond quire of the prince, the cause of his melan-
 had dis- choly, and exhort him to take a consort to his
 w alone bed, as soon as possible. There were some in
 ad of a this assembly, who even hinted in their dis-
 to quit courses, that how great soever their misfortune
 then se- might be, to lose so accomplished a prince,
 rom his they were determined to acknowledge him no
 medita- longer for their sovereign, if he refused to be
 himself conformable to their desires.

his pre- Mora-Conay (for that was the name of the
 counte- first minister) had a sincere affection for his
 lancho- master, and trembled for him, when he heard
 ple, who them talk of dethroning him. However, with-
 nstantly out disclosing any emotion, he replied, that he
 dness is would willingly charge himself with their com-
 le is re- mission, and hoped the event would be successful.
 darling Upon which he immediately went to the prince's
 rded as apartment, to acquaint him with the danger to
 n by all which he was exposed. He found his sovereign
 virgins alone, in the most unfrequented part of the
 in palace ; and throwing himself at his feet, My
 lord,

lord, said he, may a wretched worm of the earth be permitted to speak, without reserve, to the son of the lion? At which, Himan, raising his minister from the earth, replied, Thou art sensible, Mora-Conay, that I listen with pleasure to all you tell me, and have constantly directed you to conceal nothing from me: if there be any thing wherein my person, or the public good is interested, speak freely, without the least apprehension of offending me.

Since you thus command me, replied Mora-Conay, I must acquaint you, my lord, that your people impute your fondness for solitude, to an aversion you entertain for them; they loudly cry, they have no share in your affection, that you despise them in your heart, and count them unworthy of having any princes of your blood, to rule them after your death. There is reason to suspect, that they will be spirited, by this persuasion, to some fatal excess. Every place resounds with murmurs; and secret assemblies are held, wherein they are prepared to form resolutions not very favourable to your interest. It is necessary my lord, added he, to check this evil in its first appearance. Is it possible, that no part of your dominions can furnish you with a virgin worthy to be your spouse? Should that be the fact, yet at least, give your people the satisfaction of seeing you take a mistress. This is the only step by which you can appease their discontent, and reinstate all things in their proper order.

The

The prince of Titicaca was convinced by this discourse, that his dominions were threatened with an insurrection. Let my people then, said he, if they are weary of my government, raise another sovereign to the throne. Let them try if they can be happier under a new prince. As for me, the felicity of my life has no dependance on a diadem, and I am ready to resign it to him who shall be thought more worthy to wear it. It will be much more satisfactory to me, to descend from my throne, than comply with their importunity. No, Mora-Conay continued the prince, I am absolutely averse to all solicitations to marriage, or even a mistress: such a proposal is inconsistent with my duty and interest; and you yourself will entertain the same opinion, when I have acquainted you with some particulars of my life. I shall open them to you without any reserve, and only desire you to conceal them with inviolable secrecy.

Mora-Conay promised not to divulge the least circumstance that should be imparted to him; after which, Himan proceeded to this relation.

Thou knowest, Mora-Conay, that my father, after he had reigned five years in this land, was compelled to resign his dominions to a conqueror. I shall not remind thee of any of those strange events, which gave a rise to inquietudes that have some resemblance to the present dissatisfactions of my people; nor will I tell thee by what revolutions I ascended the throne

throne of my ancestors : thou hadst too considerable a part in those transactions, to make any information necessary from me, and I shall only confine myself to such circumstances as never came to my knowledge, and which, for many years past, have interrupted the tranquillity of my life.

I lived till my eighteenth year at Raymipampa, near a mountain covered with snow. I was brought up in such a manner as habituated me to hardships, and contributed not a little to make my constitution vigorous. My father, who had no child but myself, discovered in me a courage suitable to my birth ; he accustomed me to combat the tygers and bears which are very numerous in those parts. I wrestled with the youths of our neighbourhood ; could swim to perfection ; and, at the age of fourteen years, had the glory to win the prize in those exercises more than once.

My father did not content himself with forming my body to labour and agility, but was very careful to cultivate my mind. He instructed me in history, and intermixed his relations with such remarks, as made me discover a great difference in the action of mankind ; and by his reasoning, taught me to approve some of those actions, and dislike others. Among other particulars, he inspired me with such an aversion for a plurality of wives, and the shameful freedoms to which all the young women were abandoned, that I determined

never

never to marry, unless I could find a woman whose inclinations had some conformity to mine.

In this manner did I pass my days in our solitude, very different from other men, when it was my fortune to meet with strange adventures. One day when I was hunting, at the distance of three days journey from our habitation, I saw the most formidable tyger I had ever beheld, marching towards me. His eyes darted sparkles of flame; his mouth, with a seeming impatience to devour his prey, opened from time to time, and offered to my view two pointed ranges of teeth that appeared ready for employment. I lanced an arrow at him, which hit him on the right shoulder, but the wound was very inconsiderable, and only animated my foe, who came upon me with redoubled swiftness. We immediately closed with the utmost rage, and our combat merited other spectators than the trees and rocks that surrounded us; I wounded the tyger in several places; but in revenge, he left terrible impressions of his claws on one of my arms, and one of my thighs; but the moment I saw my blood trickle down, I was inspired with new courage: I grasped my sabre with both hands, and made it descend on each side of my enemy. At last, as he reared himself on his hinder paws, in order to spring full upon me, I received him with a back-blow, and parted his head from his body. But the moment I gave him his death's

death's wound, he cried, Ah Himan! is it thus thou treatest those who desire thy welfare?

Acclahua was interrupted in this part of her relation, by a gentle noise at the chamber-door, upon which she immediately thrust her hand into her girdle, and the luminous arm as instantly appeared, the voice which attended it, at the same time, enquiring of the select virgin, what she would have performed? Cause me, said Acclahua, to be invisible for a moment. She had scarce pronounced this order, when the luminous arm wound about her, and made her disappear from the Ynca's view.

The prince was much displeased at this unseasonable accident; he went to the door in order to know the meaning of the noise, and was told, that the necessary preparations were made for the chase. The Ynca commanded them to wait his pleasure a few moments. Upon which he shut the door of his apartment, and Acclahua, at the same time, desiring the luminous arm to leave her visible, he had the pleasure of seeing her appear anew. However, he made no discovery of his satisfaction; but on the contrary pretended to be always offended at the parallel the select virgin had drawn. I perceive, said he, that your history is something long, and I am not desirous you should fatigue yourself; return to-morrow at the same hour you came to day: you shall proceed in your relation, and I will hear you to the end, before I decide any thing.

Acclahua

M
Titic
mann
ra C
V

Acllahua having promised to return the next day, directed the luminous arm to convey her back to Cusco, and place her in the apartment of her Mamacuna : she was accordingly carried thither in an instant, and found the venerable matron in strange apprehensions ; but these were all dissipated by Acllahua's relation of what had happened at Muna. Daughter, said she to the select virgin, you have made so happy a beginning, that you may justly promise yourself success in your enterprize ; and you must now persevere, since such is the will of your mother the moon. I am now persuaded, that the revelation lately imparted to you is true ; and may the sun our parent grant, that the Ynca Yahuarhuacac may be delighted with your stories, and by his attention to them, lose the remembrance of his misfortunes.

Acllahua passed that day in the usual exercises of the select virgins. The next morning soon after she rose she returned to Muna, where she found the Ynca Yahuarhuacac, who expected her with impatience. Proceed in your history, said he ; I shall now see whether you will be punctual to your promise.

H O U R II.

My lord, replied Acllahua, the prince of Titicaca continued to relate his history in this manner. I will confess to you, my dear Mora Conay, I knew not what to think of the

adventure you have heard. So extraordinary an event made me at first regret the tyger's death, and I began to wish I had only disabled him from the combat, that I might have known what particular benefit he intended me. But recollecting with what fury he assaulted me, 'tis impossible, said I, that this animal could have any inclinations in my favour; nor did he treat me as if he wished me well. The impression his claws have left upon me, sufficiently convince me, that he only wanted to devour me, and I could do no better than kill an enemy who endeavoured to destroy me.

Those reflections banished from my heart, all the compassion that had begun to spring up there, and I now fled off the tyger's skin without the least reluctance. As I had lost a large quantity of blood, I had occasion for the animal's skin to bind up my wounds, and accordingly I cut off two large thongs, one of which I applied to my arm, and the other to my thigh, taking care to fasten them with fillets in such a manner, that the effusion of blood was stopped, and I then began to think it time to retire.

The day was now upon the close, and the fatigue I had endured in the combat, together with my loss of blood, very much weakened me; besides which, I was exceedingly tormented with thirst. At last I ascended the crag of a rock, to try if I could discover any little cot to pass the night in; all I could observe, was

a little column of smoke rising at some distance from me, and to this I immediately directed my steps.

This smoak ascended from a cave, whose entrance was closed up; but the necessity I was under of some assistance, made me knock at the door, upon which four aged women appeared; but the moment they cast their eyes on me they were seized with a strange fear, and immediately fled leaving the door, upon which I was in some hesitation, whether I should enter or not; but my need of refreshment inclined me to venture, and curiosity determined my resolution so to do. After I had passed through a long subterranean gallery I came to a large chamber, illuminated by several tapers, and there found the four antient women, who were still under the impressions of their fear. My good ladies, said I, take courage, I am not come here to offer you the least injury, and I only implore your assistance: these two days past, I have followed the chase in the neighbourhood of your grot, and have been exceedingly fatigued this day; I am even dying with thirst, and only intreat you to give me something to drink.

One of these women, whom my words had recovered from her fright, made me this reply. Young stranger, said she, if we fled when we first beheld you, it was not because we suspected you for an enemy; but we were seized with apprehensions to see you arrive at a place
E 2 where,

where, for the space of sixteen years, we have never beheld any man but yourself. We were sensible that the avenues to this grot were strictly guarded, and thought that none could approach it without inevitable destruction: and yet you are arrived here in perfect safety. What are we to think then of you; doubtless some magician, or rather a propitious god, has preserved you from the danger.

Madam, replied I, before I satisfy your curiosity, permit me to quench my thirst. I had no sooner repeated this request, than they presented me with a cocoa, the juice of which I drank with exquisite pleasure, and never till then tasted any liquor so delightful. But whilst I was drinking, one of my old hostesses perceived that I was covered with blood. She was extremely startled at the sight, and asked me if I had been wounded, and by whom. I acquainted her, that a tyger of a prodigious size had assaulted me, and in the combat torn my flesh with his claws: added, that I had been so fortunate as to leave my enemy dead on the spot.

At these words the four matrons burst out into a loud exclamation. Young stranger, said they, you must inevitably perish unless we tender you some assistance; and without losing any time, two of them began to unbind the skins I had wound round my arm and thigh, and the other two, with the same expedition, passed into an adjoining chamber, from whence they

they presently returned, bringing a calabash filled with so odoriferous a balm, that the fragrance diffused itself through all the apartment. The virtue of it was still more excellent; for the moment they anointed my wounds with it, I found myself so perfectly cured, that there was not the least appearance of any scar.

The late cry of the four aged women echoed thro' all the grot, and infallibly reached the ears of a young person, who was carefully guarded in that place. I have since been informed, that she was the young Cumac Riti, the only daughter of him who had usurped my father's dominions. She had the curiosity to discover, what was transacted in the chamber where we then were. Her majestic shape might make her pass for a goddess, and the lustre of her beauty would induce one to believe some star, in all its brightness, had descended to grace the earth.

I was preparing to testify to her the admiration she had infused into my soul, and the impressions the view of her charms had fixed in my heart; when I heard a terrible noise at the door of the cavern. We listened to it, and heard the sound of an exceeding strong voice. Great gods! cried the four aged women, we are all undone! It is the magician Coran! We have violated his orders, and nothing can preserve us from his fury. Ah, unhappy stranger, added they, what fatality has conducted you

here, to be the cause of our destruction, as well as your own!

They were proceeding in these melancholy lamentations, when the magician appeared. There was something very stern and gloomy in his air; his stature was four cubits high; the tincture of his complexion seemed more inclining to black than white; and he held a red wand in his hand. Presumptuous wretches, said he to the four ancient women, you deserve to die, for giving admission to that stranger in this place, contrary to my commands; but I pardon you in consideration of the care you have taken to save his life. And then turning to me, I likewise forgive you, said he, the injury you have offered me by killing an enchanted tyger, who cost me the labour of ten years to produce; and how much soever I am dissatisfied at that loss, I am willing to forget it, on account of the courage you discovered in the combat: however, the poor animal had no design on your life; he only attempted to intimidate you, and oblige you to fly from a place, to which you could not approach with impunity: for which reason, continued he, I cannot entirely pardon the crime you have committed, by intruding here; and, for your punishment, I condemn you to continue three moons in this grot, after which you shall wander for the same space of time, on the earth; and I shall then know, by your constancy of mind, if you be worthy of the fortune to which I intend to raise you. I

I would willingly have excused myself, by alledging the necessity I was under of coming to that place for some assistance. But whilst I was addressing him with such expressions, as were most insinuating, and capable of softening his resentment, a sudden slumber closed my eyes, and I did not awake till a long time after.

But, O heavens! how great was my astonishment when my sleep left me! I no more beheld in the grot, either the magician or the four aged women, or the young lady who had charmed me. The tapers were all extinguished, and a solemn darkness reigned thro' all the place; and as an addition to my misfortune, the gate, through which I entered, was exactly closed up with a huge stone. The thought of being alone in a subterranean cavern, without light or food, filled me with horror, and my hair rose upright on my head. How! said I to myself, was a transient glance at a young lady, who presented herself to my view, so great a crime, as to draw upon me such a severe punishment? What would it then have been, had I acquainted her with the sentiments of my heart?

I was a long time engaged in reflections on this adventure, and found my soul agitated by a variety of strange emotions; for, notwithstanding the melancholy situation to which I was now reduced, my thoughts were taken up with the idea of this amiable person, and I

was sensible of impressions in her favour, which I never knew till then.

My greatest perplexity was, how to reconcile the mercy of the magician, to the barbarity with which he treated me. He pardoned me, said I, the death of his tyger who cost him ten years labour, and yet condemns me to perish by famine, only for gazing on a person who appeared but a moment before me. The four women who were disobedient to his commands, received mercy from him, because they saved my life; and now he himself would deprive me of that enjoyment. He shuts me up in a subterranean solitude, from whence 'tis impossible to disengage myself, and where I cannot long subsist without food.

Upon the whole, the result of all these thoughts was, that it was not probable the magician could have any design against my life; and I began to imagine, that he only intended to divert himself with my surprise and affliction. Let me resolve then, said I, to suffer, and leave the gods to dispose of me as they please. But for all this I diligently endeavoured to find out a passage from that confinement. I knew there was another door, besides that which was opened by the two women, when they went for the balm they applied to my wounds; and which was the very same door at which the young lady made her appearance to me. But I searched round the chamber several times to no purpose, and met with nothing but a continued wall extremely solid.

H O U R

H O U R III.

I had now been several hours, and to my apprehension, as many years, in a state the most dismal that a man could possibly experience. My throat was inflamed with thirst, and I felt all the severity of hunger. My strength began to fail me; and I had no hope of being accommodated with what I wanted. In short, I was reduced to such a languishing condition, that being no longer able to hold out, I was obliged to lie down on the earth; for the magician had not left me so much as a bed to repose on. I there determined to await the conclusion of a wretched life; but was instantly seized with a deep slumber.

In this state an antient woman appeared to me, and said, Give attention, Himan; the magician Coran permits me to offer you some mitigation of your misfortunes. Give me immediately then some little refreshments of food, said I; my spirits are exhausted, and I am dying with faintness. You shall not want provision, replied the aged person, provided your patience does not fail you; and remember, that if you discover no weakness of mind in your distress, you shall one day enjoy the brightest prosperity to which a mortal can aspire.

At the conclusion of these words, methought the old woman left by me a pannier

made of reeds, which till then she had held in her hand; upon which she retired, and I immediately awaked. The idea of this person was so perfectly imprinted in my mind, and I found so much conformity between her discourse, and the last part of what the magician had said to me, that I looked on this adventure to be, not so much a delusive dream, as a real apparition; and grew persuaded that I had received a supply suitable to my present necessity. In this confidence I searched about with my hands; and in a little time found at my side, the pannier that seemed in my dream to be left by the aged matron: it contained eighty-seven cocoas, a very moderate nourishment for a man so afflicted with hunger and thirst as myself. I opened one of the cocoas with great eagerness; after which I drank the juice and eat the pulp.

I easily judged by the number of cocoas, that they were to be my provision for the whole time I was to remain under ground; and that I must only eat one every day: but the difficulty was, how to distinguish day from night in such perpetual darkness: I therefore regulated my appetite by a resolution, not to eat or drink, but when I found nature in absolute need of a recruit. And the event convinced me that I had acted with discretion: for by these means my cocoas lasted as long as I wanted them. In reality, when I took the last which remained, the three moons were completed;

pleated, as presently appeared; for the moment I took the cocoa into my hands the shell changed into a bow, the pulp became a quiver, and the liquor was transformed into three arrows.

Whilst I was in the utmost astonishment at this prodigy, I heard a voice which said to me, Himan, you are now at liberty; shoot one of your arrows against the door of the grot: after which, depart from this place, and direct your course towards that quarter from whence the wind shall happen to rise. Whenever a calm ensues, proceed no farther; but as soon as the wind begins to blow again, renew your journey; and above all things, be careful not to disquiet yourself with any manner of distrust.

At these tidings, I raised myself from the ground, exceedingly revived with what I had heard; and immediately disposed myself to comply with the injunctions of the voice. I shot an arrow against the gate; and at the instant, the stone which closed the entrance, shattered into dust, and left me a free passage. I then offered up my acknowledgments to the gods, for permitting me, once more, to behold the light; after which, I took notice of the quarter from whence the wind rose, and found it blew from a point opposite to my father's habitation. This circumstance abated, in some measure, the joy with which my liberty affected me. However I determined, without any hesitation, to pursue the track

prescribed me, notwithstanding any difficulties or inconveniencies that might happen.

After a journey of three days, through woods and over mountains, I saw a solitary cot near a little river, and as the wind that had hitherto been my guide, no longer blew, I went into this forlorn mansion; where I beheld an old man, and two young women. They received me with an air of hospitality, and I resolved to continue there, as long as the calm lasted. I soon recovered my strength by rest and food. The old man frequently hunted in the fields, and his wives caught fish out of the river; by which means they were plentifully supplied with provisions: and as I created an additional expence to my hosts, I likewise hunted and fished in my turn, that I might incommode them as little as possible. And indeed I always came back loaded with game and fish; but my success was chiefly owing to my arrows. If I shot them into the air, they spontaneously returned to me with some bird they had pierced; or if I launched them along the earth, or into the water, I was sure of being supplied with some beast or fish. These shafts were certainly made under some favourable constellation; and I discovered their virtue from the first day of my progress.

As I was in possession of such a treasure, it was no wonder that I became agreeable to my hosts: they never lived in so much profusion before; and were continually blessing the day that

that made me their guest: for my part, I had an extraordinary pleasure to find myself useful to them.

For the space of six days, I lived with much tranquillity in my new habitation; and happy should I have thought my condition, had not my destiny, or rather the infidelity in my host's two wives, changed my pleasing situation. I took notice, that they began to appear very thoughtful, and were soon after seized with unusual languors, till at last they had an entire disrelish for their food. All this time I was perfectly unacquainted with the cause of such an alteration, and little imagined it proceeded from myself.

One day these women made a declaration to me, that they had found it impossible to avoid loving me; and were incapable of resisting the flames which consumed them.

This confession filled me with the utmost confusion. Is it possible, said I, that the faith you both have sworn to your husband, should be insufficient to preserve you from this weakness? Or do you really imagine, I can be so abandoned as to yield to your criminal desires, and bring the greatest of all infamy on a man who has entertained me in his house, and constantly treated me with the most obliging hospitality? In a word, I omitted nothing in my power, to restore them to reason; but I found all my endeavours were unavailing. The poison had sunk too deep. They conjured me to pity their sufferings,

sufferings, and even practised the powerful artifice of tears, to seduce me.

The better to disengage myself from their importunity, I represented to them the absurdity of their proceeding. Were I even capable, said I, of excusing your frailty, and gratifying either the one or the other of you with any returns of love; yet can you flatter yourselves that I could possibly regard you both with equal tenderness? How should I divide myself between you, and in what manner would you reconcile yourselves to a participation that would unavoidably be attended with discord and jealousy? Be not disquieted at that apprehension, replied they; we two are united by the strictest friendship: we are infected with the same distemper, and apply for the same relief. We are mutually desirous of each other's cure; and the advantage of the one, will create no jealousy in the other: nay, should the advantage be common to us both, we shall be incapable of jealousy for that very reason.

As I persisted in my refusal, notwithstanding all their blandishments and insinuations; barbarous man! said they, you wish to see us die unpitied, but your disobliging indifference shall first be fatal to yourself. At the same time, with rage in their looks, they each of them seized a knife of stone. Thy resistance, cried they, is altogether unavailing; and if thou hast no compassion for us, we will first kill thee, and then put an end to our own lives,

werful lives, which we have languished away for a long time.

If I felt some emotion at the danger wherein I beheld myself, I was as much affected with horror at the excesses to which a foolish passion transported these women, and was at a loss how to regulate my future proceedings. - I was agitated with different reflections, that strangely discomposed me; and asked myself, if I could be weak enough to yield to the threats I had heard? Where then, said I, is that fortitude I exerted in my combat with the enchanted tyger, and in the grot that was lately my prison? But, as I was not long permitted to deliberate on the resolution I had to take, I thought it most proper to dissemble; and accordingly gave them to understand, that their husband was aged and infirm, and could not live many days longer, and that I then would be the first to attempt the conquest of their hearts; or at least, would endeavour to make the best returns to the tenderness with which they had favoured me.

This discourse softened, in some measure, the violence of their rage, and their impetuosity, by degrees, seemed enchanted into mildness, by the hopes I gave them; but if they were transported to see me in a disposition so favourable to their desires, the satisfaction they derived from it would not permit them long to wait for the happiness they beheld at such a distance. The very night that succeeded this adventure,

adventure, they murdered their husband; and after they had thrown him into the river, came to acquaint me with their proceeding.

H O U R IV.

The horror with which I was affected at so monstrous an action, made the sight of these infamous creatures insupportable; and I even reproached myself for having been the innocent cause of their crime. This was a sufficient motive to make me forsake them. I left their cot, with a thousand protestations, never to converse with such women for the future: but I became an offender in my turn; for I never consulted the wind: so that the consequence of my flight was very different from my expectations.

These women, exasperated at the contempt with which I treated their passion, had meditated my ruin, and resolved to throw the guilt of their husband's murder upon me. With this intention they left their cot; they wildly ran about the country, and alarmed it with dreadful screams. Where-ever they came, they cried out that a stranger, whom they had received into their habitation, had murdered their husband: and thus, by their fearful exclamations, and feigned tears, they easily imposed on the credulous inhabitants, who assembled in several troops, and then pursued and overtook me; after which, loading me with chains,

chains, they dragged me before the assembly of the elders, not to judge my cause, but to denounce the punishment of my pretended crime.

Great gods! cried I, is it possible that a fate more dreadful than that which beset me in the grot of the magician Coran, should await me in this place! I am lost, if you deny me your protection! Ah, you my lords, added I, addressing myself to the elders, will you permit me to justify myself before you? May I believe that innocence will find a sanctuary in your presence; and that you will not be deaf to its cries? May I hope that you will succour an unfortunate stranger persecuted by injustice?

My two female adversaries would not suffer me to proceed. They made the place resound with their horrid cries: they tore their cheeks; and with weeping eyes, demanded vengeance on the murderer of their husband. All who assisted at the assembly, moved with their complaints, cried out, O barbarity most detestable! vengeance! vengeance!

The judges imagined they had no need of fuller information. Ah, pernicious wretch! said they, the laws of hospitality shall not be violated with impunity. I then asked them, If they were determined to punish me before they were convinced I was a criminal? No more, said they; we are too sensible of thy guilt: and then, addressing themselves to my accusers, Virtuous women, said they, what act of

of
chains,

of justice do you require? Let the murderer, replied they, make reparation for the injury he has offered us; or else let him be doomed to die. He has deprived us of a husband who tenderly loved us; let him offer us his hand, and engage to treat us with the same fondness. We pardon him on these terms. If he rejects them, let death avenge us on his barbarity.

I could not bear such a proposal, without shuddering with horror. Ah wretches! cried I, can a project, like this, enter into your thoughts? Do not flatter yourselves with gathering the fruit of your crime, and never hope that I will gratify your detestable passion. I cannot behold you without horror: and every mortal who loves justice, ought to regard you with the same aversion. I would sooner die a thousand times, than comply with your criminal desires; but the gods, who protect the innocent, and whose eyes always behold the actions of mortals, to chastise those who do evil, will one day punish you for your perfidy.

Wretch as thou art, replied the judges, thou thyself hast pronounced thy condemnation. Whereupon they ordered me to be conveyed to the bank of a river, to be devoured by a crocodile, who generally lived in the water, but never failed to quit that element, the moment he saw any prey on the banks. I was led by four men to the place of punishment: but whilst they were binding me to a tree

left

lest I should escape, a monster of a prodigious size rose out of the water, and marching up to us, drew into his enormous throat one of my executioners, whilst the rest saved themselves by flight.

For my part, I expected the same fate; but the crocodile, as it should seem, never devoured more than one man at a meal: and therefore retired into the river, and left me alone. As I knew not how long these animals were in performing their digestion, I feared, when his appetite returned upon him, he would satisfy it with the prey he had then left untouched. To prevent this, I did my utmost to disengage myself from my bands, and had the good fortune to succeed; upon which, I betook myself to flight, without losing a moment's time.

But, for all this, I was not so happy as to escape. I was discovered, and seized by twelve fishermen. In vain did I implore them, in the name of the gods, to allow me my liberty. They were altogether inexorable, and dragged me back to the assembly, like a fugitive. The judges still continued to believe me guilty, ordered a great fire of wood to be kindled, into which I was sentenced to be cast.

These barbarous commands were punctually executed. The pyre was raised in a spacious field: I was stretched upon the top; and immediately the wood was kindled. I already began to feel the heat of this element; when, lifting up my eyes to heaven, O ye gods! said I,

I, who are the protectors of innocence! supreme and immortal powers, who make a just distinction between virtue and vice! if I be guilty of the crime imputed to me, may I perish in the midst of the flames; but if two infamous wretches would betray me, by a guilty combination between them, suffer not an innocent person to be destroyed before your eyes!

The gods were moved at my prayers; a terrible storm arose in a moment, and a flood of rain descended: the little rivers swelled into torrents, which floated all the plains, and extinguished the flame of the pyre. All the spectators, struck with astonishment at such a prodigy, fled in confusion, and became divided in their opinions. This young man, cried some, is certainly innocent; and heaven manifestly interposes in his defence. Let him be innocent, or not, said others, it was but natural to condemn him, because he is a stranger. In a word, the sentiments of each person, corresponded with his disposition.

In the mean time, the judges, who saw me preserved a second time from the punishment to which they had doomed me, commanded the two women to be brought before them once more. They examined those wretches, and, by their answers, discovered the truth: but yet, they only reproved them for the crime they had committed. As to my particular, they discovered some concern for my misfortune, and permitted me to direct my course where

where I pleased ; after which they ordered my bow and arrows which my accusers had seized, to be restored to me.

I took care to improve the liberty they had given me and travelled all the rest of the day without intermission. When it began to grow dark, I found myself at the door of a cave at which I knocked, tho' I was uncertain whether I should fall into the hands of savage and inhuman men, or of such as inclined to hospitality, and feared the gods.

H O U R V.

An elderly man who made a graceful appearance, opened the door and asked me what I wanted in that place? O father ! replied I, you behold a stranger, who knows not where he is wandered, or in what solitude he is going to bewilder himself, and therefore I conjure you to receive me into your habitation. He consented to my request, and desired me to come in ; and after we had spent some time in an agreeable repast, my host, whose name was Suyu, desired me to inform him of my adventures. I complied with his curiosity, and he seemed extremely affected with what I related.

The next day, I intreated Suyu to acquaint me, in his turn, with the history of his life. He consented to my request, and related his story as follows.

The

The HISTORY of SUYU the fisherman,
and the fair RUNA:

I AM, said he, a stranger in this country as well as yourself. I was born in the province, or rather the valley of Parmuca, and fishing has been my sole employment. When I was fifteen years of age, I became passionately fond of a young virgin in our neighbourhood, who was perfectly charming, and at that time in her thirteenth year. I had the good fortune not to be disagreeable to her, and we frequently passed the happy days in a mutual conformity to each other's inclinations. Our intercourse lasted the greatest part of a year. We daily tasted new pleasures in meeting and conversing together, and reciprocally vowed perpetual constancy in our passion.

A magician, jealous of our felicity, found means at last to interrupt it. He gave several presents to the father of Runa, for that was the name of my young mistress, and demanded his daughter in marriage. The father condescended to his desires, and by an impulse of avarice resolved to sacrifice his daughter, notwithstanding her aversion to that alliance.

Runa, at first, stedfastly refused to tender her hand to a man, for whom she had not the least inclination: but, at length, perceiving that all her refusals would be unavailing, she endeavoured to protract her nuptials a few days.

days. During that time she found an opportunity to see me, and disclosed to me all her inquietudes, in which I equally shared with herself. We at last determined to quit that country, and accordingly had recourse to flight: and after a long journey of several days we arrived at this cave, where we flattered ourselves with living in the sweet union of marriage, and being perfectly happy in the enjoyments of each other. But, alas! those delightful moments were but of a short continuance, and we were convinced by experience, that when mortals have reached the height of their desires, they are generally at the last stage of happiness, and on the brink of some great calamity.

The magician, receiving information of our flight, found means to discover the place of our retreat; and came there two days after our arrival. We were enjoying the fresh gales at the door of this cavern, when we beheld him at some distance from us with a bow and arrow in his hand. He drew his bow and shot Runa in the middle of her breast. The arrow was enchanted, and threw my wife into a trance, which I apprehended was the harbinger of death. The barbarous magician laughed at his successful malice, and disappeared when he saw my tears, and heard my lamentations.

O miserable Suya! said I, to what misfortune have the gods condemned thee! And so insupportable

supportable was the grief that seized me, that I cried aloud and tore the hair from my head. But sighs and tears were all ineffectual, and my calamity was without relief. Runa, my dearest Runa, was perpetually sunk in the magic slumber, which, by means of the enchanted arrow, had diffused its fatal poppies o'er her eyelids; and from which for these twenty years she has never awaked, but remains in the state of insensibility, which the magician invented for her punishment as well as mine.

However, I always hope to see her rise from this pernicious sleep; at least the enchantment will expire at the death of the magician, who is much older than me: and I flatter myself, that I shall once more behold Runa sensible of my passion. This is the hope that supports my soul, and preserves me from sinking under the weight of my despair. I live with her, as if she heard me speak, and beheld me as formerly. I lay me down by her, and eat and drink by her side. I never leave her but when I go to fish; and as often as I return from that employment, the sight of her alone makes me forget all my labour and fatigue.

The sequel of the HISTORY of the prince
of TITICACA.

SUCH a singular adventure, said Himan to Mora Conay, roused all my curiosity; and I desired my host to inform me, whether he could

could shew me the object for whom he had sighed so many years. You shall have the satisfaction you desire, said he; and at the same time he conducted me into a chamber, at the bottom of the cavern, and which was illuminated by two lamps. You see, said he, after he had breathed a deep sigh, you see that beloved wife for whom I preserve an unavailing fondness.

In reality, I beheld a young person most exquisitely beautiful, laid on a bed of rushes, and her head reclined on a pillow of bear-skins. The fatal shaft that oppressed her senses with the tedious trance, lay by her. I took up that instrument of her calamity, and attentively considered it for some time. At last, I began to think the arrow might be at once, both the evil and the remedy, and I communicated my suspicion to my host; at the same time advising him to break the arrow. This he did; and the moment he had snapped it in two, his wife fetched a deep sigh, unclosed her eyes, and rose from her bed.

Tho' I was astonished at this event, yet a new prodigy increased my surprise. A small shiver of the enchanted arrow having wounded Suyu in the little finger, he himself sunk into the same insensibility, from which he had recovered his wife. I was not so much alarmed at this accident as Runa; for she was perfectly unacquainted with the mystery I had discovered. I immediately broke the two pieces of the

arrow, and at the same instant my host, after a deep sigh, revived from his trance.

Nothing could equal the joy the married pair discover'd, when they found themselves capable of talking to each other. After the first transports were over, they thanked the gods for the succour they had vouchsafed to lend them; and both the one and the other treated me with a thousand endearments. Their only perplexity was, how they should best testify their gratitude to me, and you shall now hear what a singular contrivance they formed, in concert, at a time when I was absent from them, and diverting myself at the chase.

At my return, Suyu thus address'd himself to me, in the presence of Runa. O young stranger, you have restored my wife to my arms. And you, inturrupted Runa, have restored my husband to my embraces. We are desirous, said Suyu, to acquit ourselves of the infinite obligations with which you have charged us; and have no other expedient than to make you a proposal to live with us. I shall look upon you not as a brother, but my second self. You shall have Runa for the partner of your bed one night, and the next she shall be mine; this shall be our custom successively: her endearments shall be common to us both; and we will have an equal property in our pleasures, our children, and all other enjoyments.

H O U R

H O U R VI.

I found something very diverting in this proposal; and could not avoid smiling when I heard it. No, my dear Suyu, replied I, the pleasure I have given you, does not merit so great a sacrifice; nor will I by an unjust participation lessen the delight you enjoy, by the revival of your beloved Runa. She shall be forever yours, and yours alone; and I can never accept of a proposition, which in its consequence would be too injurious to your repose. I must likewise acquaint you, that my continuance here is limited to a certain period; the moment the wind begins to blow, I must be gone, and shall then leave you alone to cherish your undivided loves. Besides, 'tis impossible for me to erase from my remembrance, the idea of the princess Cumac Riti.

In what manner then, replied Suyu and his wife, shall we return the obligations you have conferred upon us? You have sufficiently requited me, said I, by your gratitude to the gods; and I likewise think myself amply recompensed by the satisfaction I enjoy, in having contributed to your felicity. I may even affirm, that my reward was anticipated, by the refuge you allowed me in this place, and the hospitable reception you have so long afforded me.

Whilst I was speaking, I accidentally cast my eyes to the entrance of the cavern, and saw

the dust whirling up aloft from the earth. This was a sufficient intimation to me, that the wind was risen; and I needed no more to make me think of my departure. I rose up and took leave of my hosts; and, notwithstanding the importunity with which they desired my company a few days longer, I left them, and began to pursue my progress.

After I had travelled for the space of ten days, I met with ways very difficult to be passed. The earth was dry and parched, no tree or herb appeared, nor was any food to be found in that ghastly solitude. I was obliged as I advanced, to climb over wild and craggy rocks: but notwithstanding these obstructions, I continued my progress. At last, when I had ascended one of the highest of these rocks, I discovered a spacious valley blooming with a delightful fertility, and which seemed to be inhabited: it was of a circular form, and bordered with verdant woods; towards the middle I perceived a vast number of huts, among which rose a large pavilion, which I imagined was the residence of the prince of the country.

The wind blew from that quarter, and induced me to direct my steps thither. Accordingly I descended into the valley; but before I could arrive at it, I was obliged to swim over a wide river, which, dividing itself into two branches, formed the valley into a large island; but when I thought to have landed on the other side, I saw a prodigious number of

vipers,

vipers, pismires, muskettas, and other reptiles and insects marching up to me, and who seemed to contend for the glory of preventing my access to the island, by setting before me the danger to which I stood exposed.

It was with much difficulty that I forced a passage through this army of animals; the hissing of some, and the loud buzzing of others, perfectly disordered me, and their stings were sheathed in every part of my body: but I still pursued my way thro' the forest, notwithstanding all these inconveniencies.

When I came to the edge of it I found a second river, which formed another island, and was smooth and stagnant as well as the former. The people by their industry had stopped its course, to accommodate their lands and gardens with its streams. My entrance into this island was as easy and free from obstruction, as my landing on the former was difficult and contested; and I had hardly set my foot on the earth, when two men without any habit or weapons, and of a soft and effeminate air, came to meet me, and civilly offered me their service. My friends, said I, destiny has compelled me to wander above the term of one moon, thro' countries entirely unknown to me, and chance has now conducted me to your territories; but I thank the gods for permitting me to meet with generous and hospitable people.

Young stranger, answered one of the men, you are in the country of the Caravillis, and

shall want for no accommodation. All men to-whose persons nature has been liberal of her favours, are sure of a friendly reception here; and we are perswaded you will be treated by our sovereign, with the utmost distinction. With your permission, added they, we will conduct you to the palace; but, if you will credit what we say, it will be proper for you first to be disarmed. Our prince has a pacific soul, and never beholds those instruments of death with pleasure. Even we ourselves are so little accustomed to such a sight, that we are seized with a kind of horror, whenever it is presented to our view.

I had no great inclination to oblige them in this particular: I have that regard for my arms, said I, that I cannot be without them a moment; and were you but acquainted with their virtue, instead of perswading me to quit them, you would advise me to keep them with the greatest caution. Ah! replied one of the Caravillis, what virtue can be infused into those arrows? But after I had informed him in what manner they were useful to me, If that be so, said he, you may still keep them; but, at the same time, he gave me to understand, that I should be received with more respect, if I would but conform to the custom of the country: but, for all that, I made them sensible, by my silence, that they were not to expect any such compliance from me.

As

As we advanced into the island, my two conductors led me to the edge of a large basin, and told me it would be proper for me to bathe, before I came into the presence of their prince. I did not stay to be requested twice, but taking off my habit, which I threw on the side of the basin, I leaped into the water with my bow and arrows, which I did not think it adviseable to part with. It was to no purpose for them to tell me, that no one ever bathed with a bow in his hand, and a quiver on his back; I was deaf to all their remonstrances, and the event made me sensible, that I had taken a just resolution; for, after I had washed myself, they refused to deliver my cloaths, notwithstanding all my intreaties to obtain them; and I was compelled to remain in the same indecent condition, in which the inhabitants of the country appeared.

Whilst I was bathing myself, a croud of Caravillis came to see me, and tendered me a thousand civilities, which I returned in the best manner I was capable; but my astonishment, when I came out of the water was inexpressible, to hear them cry all around me, O lovely youth! what a noble air! what grace! what majesty! He is worthy to be the favourite of the prince of the Caravillis. This discourse was above my comprehension, and I could not tell, at first, whether they mocked me or not; but when I saw that the old men, as well as young, persisted in admiring me, I then, to free myself from these disagreeable commendations,

dations, intreated them to conduct me to the palace.

I was led thither by all this concourse of people who had gathered about me, and through the whole length of the way, heard nothing but acclamations of joy, which cried up my fine mein to the skies. Two of the principal Caravillis received me at the entrance into the pavilion, and immediately introduced me into the prince's apartment. He reposed himself with a soft and negligent air on a bed, covered with several very fine skins; and the moment I appeared, Approach, said he, young stranger; and when I came near him, Your presence is agreeable in this place, continued he, and this day presents me with the most amiable conquest I ever made. Besides these expressions, he from time to time beheld me with such a languishing and passionate air, as threw me into the utmost confusion, and my embarrassment was so great that I could not utter one word. My soul was agitated with various thoughts, that affected it with the most disagreeable impressions.

H O U R VII.

When the prince had attentively considered me from head to foot, with a kind of admiration, which frequently appeared in his countenance, Let a collation, said he, be immediately served up to this lovely stranger, that

he

he may recruit his decay'd spirits. Upon which I was presently conducted to an adjoining hall, and entertained with all sorts of refreshments; and indeed, I much wanted some nourishment, for I had not tasted any food all that day.

Whilst I was at table, two of the prince's officers came to entreat me in his name, to lay aside my bow and arrows, and used all imaginable solicitations to that effect; but when they found me inflexible to all they could say, they forbore to urge me any farther, and returned to give an account of their commission.

Some short time after this, twelve young men of an agreeable appearance, came to me with a mysterious air, as if they had something of importance to impart to me. This was a new deputation on the subject of my weapons. Young stranger, said they, congratulate yourself for your present fortune, for your happiness may well be envied. If you can dispose yourself to love none but our master, and shew an entire conformity to his inclinations, he will oblige you with all you can possibly crave: he loves you with the most passionate fondness, determines to make you his principal favourite, and has now commanded us to give you the strongest assurances of his tenderness: prepare then to entertain him with all possible compliance, and know that he expects as a first proof of such a disposition, that you send him your bow and arrows.

dations, intreated them to conduct me to the palace.

I was led thither by all this concourse of people who had gathered about me, and through the whole length of the way, heard nothing but acclamations of joy, which cried up my fine mein to the skies. Two of the principal Caravillis received me at the entrance into the pavilion, and immediately introduced me into the prince's apartment. He reposed himself with a soft and negligent air on a bed, covered with several very fine skins; and the moment I appeared, Approach, said he, young stranger; and when I came near him, Your presence is agreeable in this place, continued he, and this day presents me with the most amiable conquest I ever made. Besides these expressions, he from time to time beheld me with such a languishing and passionate air, as threw me into the utmost confusion, and my embarrassment was so great that I could not utter one word. My soul was agitated with various thoughts, that affected it with the most disagreeable impressions.

H O U R VII.

When the prince had attentively considered me from head to foot, with a kind of admiration, which frequently appeared in his countenance, Let a collation, said he, be immediately served up to, this lovely stranger, that

he

he may recruit his decay'd spirits. Upon which I was presently conducted to an adjoining hall, and entertained with all sorts of refreshments ; and indeed, I much wanted some nourishment, for I had not tasted any food all that day.

Whilst I was at table, two of the prince's officers came to entreat me in his name, to lay aside my bow and arrows, and used all imaginable solicitations to that effect ; but when they found me inflexible to all they could say, they forbore to urge me any farther, and returned to give an account of their commission.

Some short time after this, twelve young men of an agreeable appearance, came to me with a mysterious air, as if they had something of importance to impart to me. This was a new deputation on the subject of my weapons. Young stranger, said they, congratulate yourself for your present fortune, for your happiness may well be envied. If you can dispose yourself to love none but our master, and shew an entire conformity to his inclinations, he will oblige you with all you can possibly crave : he loves you with the most passionate fondness, determines to make you his principal favourite, and has now commanded us to give you the strongest assurances of his tenderness : prepare then to entertain him with all possible compliance, and know that he expects as a first proof of such a disposition, that you send him your bow and arrows.

I was so astonished at this discourse, that it was some time before I could make any reply; but at last I broke silence in this manner; My friends, said I, 'tis impossible for me to comprehend any part of the language you have used to me; but I am desirous you shall know, that I am not permitted to take up my residence in this isle, and therefore cannot be influenced by your prince's promise of giving me the first rank among his favourites; and as to my arms, I shall never trust them in the hands of any mortal: and therefore I would give you to understand, once for all, that if any one shall hereafter take the liberty to repeat such a proposal to me, I will that moment pierce his heart with one of my arrows. The twelve deputies were so alarmed at this menace, that they immediately fled from my presence.

They were presently succeeded by four others, who acquainted me, that their master desired to see me. This third embassy gave me no great satisfaction; I was already warmed into some resentment, and was on the point of carrying things to an extremity. However, after a few deliberate reflections, I rose from my seat and followed the four messengers, who conducted me into the apartment of the prince. He was still extended on his bed, and when he saw me, he caused me to be seated near his own person. Young man, said he, what is this that I have heard? You refuse to live with me, and intend to leave this island; what are the thoughts

that move you to such a resolution? Is there a more delicious climate than this under all the heavens? Can any other place present you with the happiness I intend you? You shall be my partner in the throne, and after my death the sole heir of my dominions: besides which, I will communicate to you the secrets of my art; for though I am a prince, I am likewise a magician: forget then, young man, whatever you may have left behind you in other countries: neither parents, friends, mistresses, titles, nor any other acquisitions, can be comparable to the advantages you will enjoy with me; and all these will cost you no more than a resolution to resign yourself to my desires without reserve.

He waited for my answer with a palpitation of heart; and when he saw me continue silent, for I was so discomposed, that I was incapable of uttering a word, Lovely stranger, said he, what may this silence mean? Am I to count it a favourable omen of your conformity to my wishes, or must I call it an afflictive refusal? All the happiness or misery of my life depends on your reply; the first moment I saw you, I felt a fondness for you springing up in my soul; and the longer I behold you, I grow more sensible of its tender impressions.

The prince of the Caravillis accompanied these words with a sigh, and his looks all languishing, though at the same time full of fire, acquainted me that moment with what I could

not till then comprehend. I was struck with the utmost shame at his criminal designs; I shuddered with horror; and cried aloud, O ye great gods! what do I now hear? Was I born for no other end, than to be subservient to the most abominable of all passions? — Am I then destined to be a wretched victim to the brutality of an abandoned prince? Ah inhuman youth! replied he, is it thus you treat the pure flame that must consume me for ever! Are all my sighs and transports, with the variety of advantages I offer you, incapable of inspiring you with compassion for my torments?

These reproaches, instead of softening me to a compliance, made me burn with indignation; and I had destroyed the prince and all his retinue, had not the uncertainty of what consequence I should derive from such a proceeding, suspended my resentment. My lord, said I, let me fly from a country to whose customs I can never conform.

The prince of the Caravillis had recourse to all the gentleness, and most insinuating language he could use, to affect me with the impressions he desired; but finding me deaf to all his vows, and that I persisted in my request to leave a place that offered nothing but hateful objects to my view; 'Tis too much, said he, and I will now display my vengeance for these provoking indignities: at the same time he laid hold of a wand that stood by his side, and striking me on the head with it, Be gone, said

said he, into the forest, and be a companion to those who have slighted my tenderness; let thy condition resemble theirs, and be assured thou shalt repent of thy indifference at leisure.

I expected, at that very instant, to be transformed into one of those insects I had seen in the forest; but when I found the effect did not correspond with the menace, my courage was redoubled. Wretched man, said I, let us see whether my arms will not be more effectual than thine: upon which I immediately took one of my arrows, and began to aim it at his heart. At this he burst into tears, and throwing himself at my feet, in the utmost consternation, Young stranger, said he, who may I imagine you be? Tell me who you are, and from whence you came; tell me who conducted you to this place; my astonishment is inexpressible to find my wand ineffectual against you; till this moment, neither men, nor women, nor animals, have been able to defeat my enchantments; and therefore some power superior to mine, must have taken you into his protection. Return, I conjure you, that shaft into your quiver; let us no more remember what has happened, but devote ourselves to pleasure; let a perpetual union be established between us, and let us give each other the gentlest pledges of a mutual affection.

It was impossible for me to hear this new proposal with any moderation; instead of replacing my arrow in the quiver, I struck this unhappy

unhappy prince with it, and he was immediately changed into a mass of black earth, which diffused a most offensive scent thro' the whole apartment.

And now the officers and favourites of the prince, who had been the spectators of this tragical event, fled from my presence in the utmost confusion; in vain did I call to them, promising to offer them no injury; it was impossible for me to prevail on them to return. For my part, I could not imagine where this extraordinary scene would end, tho' I presaged a favourable conclusion, from the general consternation that affected the people.

With this expectation, I went out of the pavilion with a slow pace, and my bow and arrows in my hand; and walked over a considerable part of the island, without finding any living creature. I only had a distant view of several men and women, who ran with the greatest expedition, and, after swimming over the river that separated the two islands, advanced towards me.

I was surpris'd at such a spectacle, and believing they came to seize me, resolv'd to sell my life very dear; but when the multitude came near enough to be heard, they all cried at once, May the blessing of the gods descend on our benefactor, and may he live to reign over us and our posterity! May his life be spared, to give us the enjoyment of every felicity under his reign! When they came up to
me,

me, they fell prostrate at my feet, and embraced them with sighs and tears of joy.

H O U R VIII.

After these testimonies of the sincerest gratitude, I began to fancy that this multitude of both sexes, whom I had never seen before, were disenchanting at the death of the prince; and I was fully convinced that my opinion was true, after I had conversed with some who made the best appearance among them. My lord, said they, we were informed by the fugitives, in what manner you destroyed the tyrant; and, by an unspeakable good fortune, have by that means, recovered our liberty: all the men you now behold, were such as had the resolution to oppose the brutal passion of the prince, or his officers. That prince offended at our resistance, unworthily transformed us into vipers and pismires, and other insects: and as to the women who accompany us, the prince, who had an unconquerable aversion to their sex, changed them at the same time, into various insects; and we have all been condemned to live a whole year in the forest, in those strange shapes. The last night only of the last moon in the year, the prince and his courtiers came into the forest and restored the men to their natural form; and after demanding of us, if we would always persist in our opposition, they changed us anew into insects, if we refused

refused to condescend to their desires. The same night they likewise made the women assume their former shape, and then took them to their beds; not so much out of inclination, as from the necessity they were under of multiplying their species. When this scene was over, the women, like ourselves, resumed the form of insects which they had quitted, and retained it all the following year.

'Tis not easy for me to express my astonishment at such a relation: I almost looked upon this adventure as a dream: but at last, when I was unavoidably convinced of its reality, I determined to make the present disposition of the people, contribute to my design of establishing order and regulation among them. I seemed to receive, with pleasure, the respect they paid me, and caused a throne to be raised for me in the middle of the public place. I then seated myself thereon, and received the homage of all the multitude; after which, I made a sign that I had something to speak, and that moment they kept an universal silence. All the assembly who listened to my discourse, beheld me with an attention mixed with reverence. My beloved people, said I, prepare to take possession of this island, which the gods deem you worthy to inhabit: let the lot share among you the dwellings, which your barbarous enemies have compelled you to abandon: but, as it is impossible for a state to subsist, without some form of laws and government,

ment, let all the heads of families assemble in the pavilion, and I will there take the necessary measures with them, for maintaining order and justice among you, and securing to you the enjoyment of all manner of prosperity.

When I had ended my speech, the people made the place echo with new acclamations of joy, during which I rose from the throne, and walked to the palace, into which I entered with all the elders: I then desired them to assist me with their wise counsels; and after I had intimated to them the laws I thought necessary to be established, we agreed upon the following articles. The country was to be governed by a prince, to be chosen by all the heads of families: the assembly of the elders were to be at liberty to depose the prince, and elect another in his place, whenever he should violate the laws; and the prince had an equal privilege to abdicate his dignity, when he should think proper: that a feast should be celebrated on the first day of every moon, in order to thank the gods for their blessings: that neither the prince, nor any subject, should do that to another, which he would not have done to himself: that every one should marry according to inclination: that a man should have only one wife, and a woman one husband: that the youth of both sexes, who abandoned themselves to any irregularities, should be severely chastised for the first offence, and for the second, ignominiously banished the country, and

and suffer death if they ever returned : that the fugitive Caravillis, who had filled the land with abominations, should be condemned to perpetual exile; and, if any one should be so hardy as to set a foot thereafter in the territories, he should be publicly burnt, and his ashes thrown into the river: that both sexes should always wear cinctures, that would cover them from the reins to the knees: that the young men should daily exercise themselves in swimming, fishing, running, or hunting; and that a prize should be given to all who excelled in those exercises.

These laws were proclaimed, and received as commands sent from the gods; and every individual promised a strict obedience to them. Whoever, said they with one consent, shall presume to violate them, let him be deemed an enemy to his country, a disturber of the public tranquillity, and let him be punished according to his demerits. The people got them all by heart, and habituated themselves to practise them with the greatest emulation. In short, they regarded them as the rule they ought constantly to pursue in the conduct of their lives.

I had the satisfaction to see those laws observed with all the exactness I could desire; and, during the period of one moon that I continued in the island of the Caravillis, I never heard that any person had violated them in the least instance. They were all influenced by the same

same view, which was the public good: they mutually contended to be first in performing good offices to each other; and the interest of each particular, coincided with that of his neighbour.

I was perfectly charmed with all this; and must needs confess, that had I been master of my own destiny, I should have delighted to pass my days with a people, who knew so well how to use their reason: but I had no permission to infringe, or neglect the laws that were prescribed to me, and I was every moment observing whether the wind had begun to blow; for it had entirely ceased from the time I came to the island of the Caravillis. One day I perceived the branches of the trees were in motion, and this was an admonition to me to prepare for my departure. With this intention, I assembled the heads of families, and acquainted them with the necessity that obliged me to leave them, and advised them to chuse a prince from their own body, in my place, after my departure.

This declaration was like a blast of thunder to them, and at first they seemed disposed to obstruct my design: but when I represented to them, how reproachful it would be for them to be guilty of the first violation of the laws they had made, one of which permitted a prince to abdicate his dignity when he thought it expedient, and that their example might be attended with fatal consequences, they at last yielded,

yielded, tho' with much reluctance, to my departure ; and thus, notwithstanding the regret that appeared in their faces, and the disinclination I had to leave them, I bid them an eternal farewell.

When I had taken my leave of the elders, I went to the public place, where I addressed myself to the people in these terms. Every thing which the gods ordained to be transacted in this island by my ministration, is now completed ; the detestable prince who polluted the land with his crimes, and detained you in the severest captivity, is now no more ; and the wretched accomplices of his abominations have been compelled to abandon the country, and wander in strange lands ; you have succeeded in their room, as more worthy to inhabit the island of the Caravillis, and are now entered on their possessions ; your punctuality in conforming to the laws prescribed you, has exceeded my expectations ; and I beg the gods to continue you in the happy state wherein I now behold you : may they grant, that you may long be the consolation and joy of your children ; may they shower down all imaginable prosperity on your heads, and avert from you every calamity that would afflict you.

When I had finished this discourse I prepared for my departure, whilst all the people wept, and knew not how to make me sufficiently sensible of their sorrow : men, women and children attended me to the verge of the second isle, and

and would even have passed the river, and followed me much farther; but I so earnestly intreated them to return, that they could no longer refuse me that satisfaction.

My only consolation at leaving a people so dear to me was to observe, that the wind blew from that point where my father's habitation was seated: this circumstance filled me with a joy beyond expression; for at that time I had no knowledge of the misfortunes I was still reserved to suffer. However, I met with nothing remarkable in all the countries thro' which I passed; and after I had travelled for the space of twenty days, I at last saw the expiration of the term of three moons, during which I was fated to wander over the face of the earth.

I was at the distance of only two days journey from my father's habitation, when a dreadful tempest, intermixed with thunder and lightning, overtook me in my way; I frequently saw the thunder bursting at my feet, and the danger obliged me to seek for some shelter; I at last found myself at the entrance into a cavern, the door of which was open; and as I hoped to be there in safety, I was preparing to enter; when I beheld a young lady run into the cavern, in the greatest disorder, without any cincture, and with an air of the utmost desolation. She seemed to have the very features of the young princess I had seen six months before, in the cave of the magician
Coran,

Coran, and the sight of whom had cost me so dear. I had a secret presage that she was the same person, and that I should not even now behold her with impunity: however, I took a resolution to follow her, and as she fled with extraordinary swiftness, I imagined she might want some assistance. I therefore followed her into the second chamber, which was illuminated with a vast number of lamps: she had thrown herself on a bed of rushes; and without thinking on the attitude in which she lay, abandoned herself to all the violence of sorrow.

Surprized at what I beheld, I approached the bed on which she had cast herself, and kneeling before her I clasped one of her hands in mine; How happy am I to have found an opportunity, said I, of serving the most amiable creature in the world! You are bedewed with tears; permit me to wipe them from your cheeks: your limbs are all covered with mire; let me wash away that pollution. Upon which I was preparing to render her those little services, which she suffered me to perform, or rather was insensible of what I did. But at last as I was giving her to understand how much I thought myself obliged to my destiny, for conducting me to her presence, that I might surrender up my liberty to her; Be gone, rash man, said she, pushing me away with much vehemence; leave me to bewail my misfortune, and tremble at that which now threatens even you. At the same instant, happen-

ing

ing to recollect that she was entirely naked, she was lost in confusion, to behold herself in that condition in the presence of a man, and immediately covered herself with the skin of a bear, that she snatched from the foot of the bed.

I was charmed at this instance of her modesty; and perfectly transported to discover, in such a lovely person, a decency so unusual in that sex*. I endeavoured to calm her sorrow in the best manner I was capable; and represented to her, that it was unreasonable to abandon herself to despair, whilst there was the least hope of relief. I asked her to speak to me without reserve, at the same time assuring her, that I would sacrifice my life in her service. Ah generous unknown! cried she in a new consternation, turn your eyes to the door! She had no power to utter a word more, and immediately fell into a swoon. I was preparing to assist her, when a dreadful hiss made me turn my head to the chamber-door: I there saw a terrible serpent advancing towards us. I shuddered at the sight of a monster, that to me appeared more formidable than the enchanted hyger I had killed six months before. But, however, my courage did not forsake me at that juncture: I seized my bow and arrows, and prepared to pierce the serpent; but the very

* Almost all the women of those times prostituted themselves to the first comer, and the most abandoned of them was generally best disposed of in marriage.

moment I was ready to launch the first arrow I became motionless, my feet were fastened to the pavement in such a manner, that I could not move from the spot where I stood, and my arms remained extended, without the least possibility of motion:

In the mean time the monster, winding to the bed, opened a dreadful throat, in the hateful cavity of which I saw the princess swallowed down*: upon which he retired, leaving me still in the same condition.

It was an hour after this fatal adventure, before the charm that fixed me to the pavement entirely ceased. The first use I made of my liberty was to quit the cavern, and run in search of the dreadful animal who had devoured my mistress; but all my labours were unavailing, and the night obliged me to stop at the gate of a cave, where I saw a light. I begged permission to pass the night in that place; but the domesticks without making any reply, seized and carried me to their mistress.

She was an antient woman, and bowed under a weight of years. Venerable mother, said I the moment I beheld her, I implore your protection. I had no sooner uttered these words, when she said to me, Himan, fear nothing; I am no stranger to the laws of hospitality, and you are in perfect safety in this place.

* In Peru, and chiefly in the country of Antisuyu, serpents have been seen, 25 feet in length.

I was preparing to thank her for her civility; but she would not allow me the opportunity. Himan, said she, you need some refreshment; and you shall presently be accommodated: at the same instant they brought me a plate of maize, pulse and fruits of all sorts; after which I was presented with a large golden cup, filled with a red liquor of an excellent flavour.

The aged matron suffered me to eat, with all the tranquillity I could desire; but observing that I continued in a profound silence, after my repast (for I was then recollecting the adventures of that day) Himan, said she, forbare to indulge that melancholy; constancy and virtue ought to be equally inseparable from princes; they should make nobleness consist in a greater share of wisdom than other people enjoy. Banish then from your mind every afflictive thought; and let not an unjustifiable sorrow render you unworthy of your birth, and deprive you of the princess you love.

She pronounced these words with an accent of authority, that convinced me I ought to obey. I rose from my seat, and bending before her, with one knee to the ground, Potent Laica*, said I, your commands shall be complied with; and I vow to conform myself to your counsels: and yet the grief with which

* Laica signifies a female magician: they were usually benevolent; whereas the generality of the male magicians delighted in injurious actions.

you have seen me affected, is far from being reproachful. But why should I trouble you with the particulars; she who was acquainted with my name the moment she saw me, must certainly be privy to the most secret circumstances of my life.

H O U R IX.

Yes, my dear son, replied the Laica embracing me, I am acquainted with all that has ever happened to you since your birth; and am not ignorant of any events which are reserved for the future part of your life. To give you a proof of this knowledge, I assure you the usurper will die in a short time, and the people will recal your father to his throne: as to your particular, you shall hereafter be joined, in the softest union, with the young princess you beheld this day. She is the usurper's only daughter, and he was obliged to banish her to a cavern very remote from the place of his residence, because she was threatened by an oracle with some extraordinary calamity, if she came to the isle of Titicaca before she had arrived to a certain age, and each of you are to experience very great misfortunes, should you happen to see one another before the time prefixed by fate. Your destinies, however, have a mutual dependence on each other, and will be accomplished in spite of all opposition.

At the last part of the Laica's prediction, I felt a pleasing tranquillity reviving in my soul, and was delighted to hear I should one day be happy with the princess; and yet, as I had seen her devoured by a serpent, I could not comprehend how she could possibly be restored to me hereafter. I intimated my uneasiness to the Laica, and intreated her to favour me with some satisfactory solution of my doubts. It is by no means proper, said she, to inform you of what has happened to the princess, because the discovery would be fatal to you both; nay, you will suffer severely, for coming into her presence this day: however, a little constancy will make you triumph over your rigid destiny: but, above all things, continued she, be sure to remember the verses you will hear immediately; upon which she drew three circles, with a little red wand, and was then seized with surprizing agitations; she reddened; she grew pale; she foamed, and at last with a trembling voice, sung these verses;

Let thy fair princess ever prove
The charming object of thy love:
In ev'ry place, before thine eyes,
Let her celestial image rise.

When the Laica had uttered this oracle, she tenderly embraced me; Betake yourself now to your repose, said she, and to-morrow you may renew your journey to your own habitation.

In less than fifteen days after your arrival there, you will be visited by ambassadors who will offer you the throne of Titicaca, which you are to accept; and then govern the people according to the lights imparted to you by nature, and which have been cultivated by an happy education. When the Laica had ended her discourse, I laid me down on a bed of rushes, and enjoyed a very refreshing slumber. The next morning at break of day, I directed my course towards the palace where my father resided.

My dear Mora Conay, continued the prince of Titicaca, you are acquainted with all the other particulars; I have been invited to the throne, and endeavoured to inspire my subjects with sentiments of humanity: I have been careful to give them right apprehensions of justice and equity; but none of these attentions have been able to abate my passion: night and day the idea of the princess is inseparable from my soul, and I am perpetually sighing to behold her once more. This is the only cause of my aversion to all the marriages that have been proposed to me, and do you now think me guilty of any injustice, in not complying with such importunities? Give me your sentiments with all imaginable freedom.

My lord, replied Mora Conay, I must necessarily approve your proceeding; I have frequently seen the princess, and her youthful charms are worthy of the passion you entertain
for

for her: and yet, as your majesty cannot be certain when you shall be united to the deserving object of your wishes, and as the present dissatisfactions of your subjects are very pressing, 'tis necessary to think of some speedy remedy; and, in my opinion, the properest expedient to dissipate the cabals, is to engage your people in a war. The prince of Chuquiaqua, during these last disorders, has possessed himself of several parts of your dominions, which lie eastward of this island; and you have nothing more to do, than to demand a restitution, which he will undoubtedly refuse: this will be sufficient to induce you to declare war against him, and as long as that continues, you will hear no more of marriage: and if they should afterwards renew their former importunities, you must contrive some other expedient to relieve you from your perplexity.

The prince of Titicaca approved of the scheme his minister recommended; he dispatched an ambassador to demand the territories which had been usurped, and the brother of Mora Conay was charged with this commission: he caused himself to be carried to the court of the prince of Chuquiaqua in a golden litter, attended by fifty men who supported it in their turns.

When the ambassador was introduced to the audience of the prince, he delivered himself in these terms: My lord, you are not insensible that you possess a large tract of land which

belonged to the predecessors of my master, the prince of Titicaca. The troubles which at that time infested our country, facilitated your conquest of those territories; the restitution of which, I am now come to demand, and your answer will decide, whether peace or war is to subsist between the two nations.

Your demand is just, replied the prince of Chuquiaqua, and I promise you all imaginable satisfaction; but, at the same time, I swear by the tyger, from whom I am descended*, that the son of the lion shall never obtain what he requires, till he has made a treaty with me, by which he shall engage to be my confederate in war, against the tyrant of Mulobamba. My subjects have long complained, that this offensive neighbour daily carries off their most beautiful virgins to be subservient to his pleasures, and their young men to be devoured at his table.

As it was no important matter, what nation the prince of Titicaca declared war against, provided he kept his people in action, the treaty of alliance was soon concluded, and the two sovereigns appeared in the field at the head of their forces; but the king of Mulobamba was too powerful for the allies, and the victory declared in his favour. With his own hand he

* The Indians, and especially the great lords, pretend to derive their descent from a lion, tyger, leopard, or some other fierce animal. Some among them even drew their pedigree from a mountain, a marsh, a spring, &c.

slew the prince of Chuquiaqua, made the prince of Titicaca his prisoner, and seized the dominions of both, except the isle of Titicaca, which refused to acknowledge the conqueror.

The number of its inhabitants was considerably increased, by the multitudes who fled for refuge among them; and, with this additional strength, the island constantly preserved its liberty.

In the mean time, the prince of Titicaca was conducted to an apartment in the palace of the king of Mulobamba, and committed to the care of several young damsels, who were commanded to divert his melancholy, and regale him with such provisions as would soonest make him fat. The caresses of these young women were so many tortures to the unfortunate prince; and he was obliged to be perpetually on his guard against such amiable objects, that he might not violate his fidelity to his charming princess, whom he was commanded to remember without any intermission. During the space of two moons, which he lingered out in this miserable condition, his only consolation was to entertain himself with her lovely idea, and sing the verses he had composed in her praise; but these, in the event, proved so many combats which he had been preparing for himself, for the generality of the young damsels, to whose care he was consigned, were so affected with the harmony of his voice, that they became desirous of making

some impression on his heart : they made him all possible advances, and even offered him his liberty, if he would be favourable to their flame ; but all their sollicitudes were ineffectual ; the prince refused to owe his liberty to such conditions, and nothing could deface the princess Cumac Riti in his remembrance.

Whilst he was maintaining this contest against the charms of so many beautiful persons, he received notice, that he was now to be devoured at a feast, which the king gave to all the heads of families in his dominions. These tidings were like a clap of thunder to the prince of Titicaca ; and, yet the thoughts of death were not so dreadful to him, as the loss of his beloved princess. He represented her, in his imagination, folded in the arms of another, and this afflictive thought was the only circumstance that discomposed him : But at last he fortified himself with a noble resolution, and disposed himself for death, if such was to be the fate to which his destiny had ordained him.

When the day was fixed for this scene of inhumanity, all the people devoted themselves to public rejoicings. The morning was ushered in with dances ; and to these succeeded plentiful regales of wine.

About noon the prisoner was led to the public place, where the festival was to be celebrated. He appeared with an air of intrepidity, capable of infusing respect into the
hearts

hearts of all but barbarians. He marched with a slow and solemn pace, and from time to time play'd melting notes on the flute, or sung verses in honour of the lovely cause of all his sighs.

H O U R X.

The formality of a kind of sentence, was the prelude to this mournful ceremony. The king, at the head of the elders of the nation, approached the prince of Titicaca, and addressed him in this manner; Ah, unhappy man! Thy destruction is this day inevitable, and we shall feast on thy flesh: this is the most effectual method of being freed from our enemies: but before thou diest, continued he, answer me a few questions.

Question. Is it not true, that thou didst come to invade our country in a hostile manner?

Answer. I only came to have satisfaction for the hostilities you daily committed in my dominions, and those of my allies.

Quest. Dost not thou acknowledge, that thou hast slain several of my subjects with thine own hands?

Answ. Thou thyself has murdered many more of mine.

Quest. Should I restore thee thy liberty, wouldst thou employ it in new invasions of my kingdoms?

Answ. Without doubt; but should I make thee my prisoner, I would not devour thee.

Well then, continued the king, to prevent the calamities thou mayest bring upon us, we are determined to eat thee immediately.

The moment this sentence was pronounced, they began to put it in execution.

The prince of Titicaca was bound to a tree, and the king, with the elders of the country, armed with sharp knives of flint, prepared to dissect alive the unfortunate prince; when two messengers, all bathed in sweat rushed in, and demanded audience of the king; they acquainted him, that the inhabitants of Titicaca, with those of Chuquiaqua, were assembled to the number of thirty thousand men, and had already penetrated into the territories of Mulo-bambo, putting all to the sword in their march:

The tyrant was confounded at these tidings, and applied to the elders for counsel in that exigency. My lord, said they, there is no time for hesitation: you must assemble, without losing a moment, all the forces you can raise, and march immediately to the enemy: but this is not all, continued they, for as success in war is always uncertain, it is absolutely necessary to let the prince of Titicaca live: should we be victorious, it will then be time enough to eat him; but should the gods ordain us to be defeated, we can make use of him, to obtain advantageous terms from the enemy.

The

The prince was satisfied with this advice, and remanded the prisoner back to the women, to whose care he had been committed before. After this, he placed himself at the head of those whom the festival had drawn together, and proceeded with all expedition to meet the foe. His army was considerably reinforced in his march; so that when he prepared to engage the allies, he had forty thousand men under his command.

In the mean time, the aged Laica, who was always watchful over the interest of the prince of Titicaca, went to visit him in his prison. At her entrance into it, she diffused so thick a smোক, as made every thing invisible : after which, she took the prince by the hand, and directed him to follow her, because his presence was necessary elsewhere : upon which he was conveyed in a moment, to the army of the allies. Himan, said the Laica, you have experienced many misfortunes and dangers, and I was incapable of averting them from you ; chance led you to confer with the princes, before the time prescribed by a magician, whose power is superior to mine, and who delights to make thorns spring up in all your paths of life. He had taken a solemn oath, that if you beheld Cumac Riti, before seventeen years and one day of her age were compleated, he would punish you with great severity. I hope, however, added she, that he will now be satisfied with your past sufferings; and I am the more inclined

inclined to entertain that hope, because he has not obstructed your liberty: place yourself, then, at the head of your subjects and confederates, and combat with intrepidity; I may venture to assure you, that you will be victorious, and find many just causes for joy. But, as you have an enemy before you whose arms are enchanted, I here present you with a lance, whose virtue you will experience the moment it touches the arms of the king of Mulobamba.

The Laica, having taken her leave of the prince of Titicaca, he presented himself before his subjects, who received him with unspeakable joy; after which he discovered himself to his allies, and the whole army cried out in concert, O son of the lion! avenge our last defeat; animate us with thy presence, and make us triumph over our foes!

The two armies had faced each other a considerable time, without shewing any disposition to engage. The king of Mulobamba imagined, that as the confederates beheld his forces superior to their own, they would not presume to attack him. He sent a defiance to his enemies, and accompanied it with insulting language; but the inhabitants of Titicaca, exasperated at this contemptuous treatment, would have put the deputies to death, had not their prince thought it improper to indulge them in their intentions. Let the enemy, said he, continue to be persuaded we dare not offer battle, and

and let us wait till they march to attack us: their precipitation will disorder their ranks, and they will fall upon us with the utmost confusion; we shall then charge them with the greatest advantage, and if the gods condescend to be propitious, we shall make them fly before us without any considerable loss on our side.

It was not long before they saw the king of Mulobamba hasten to the head of his army: he was a man near five cubits in height, and he fell like a tempest upon the first ranks of the confederate army, whom he intirely routed: he grasped an enchanted mace of massive gold, which weighed two hundred pounds, and, at every blow, laid ten men in the dust. Besides this weapon, he was assisted by a tyger and a condore*, who were altogether as destructive as their master.

The army of the allies had been entirely defeated, had not the prince of Titicaca appeared in person to sustain them. He advanced at the head of his subjects, and charged so successfully on his foes, that he forced them to retreat: but his chief care was to face the king of Mulobamba; to whom at last, he forced himself a passage, and, with his lance, had no sooner touch'd the tyrant's golden mace, when it immediately shrunk in his hands, and was reduced to a powder as fine as the smallest

* A prodigious bird, sixteen feet in height, and the extremities of his wings eighteen feet distant from each other.

sand. The tyrant being thus disarmed, thought on nothing but his own destruction; he no more attempted to renew the combat, but endeavoured to owe his safety to flight: but all his efforts to that purpose were vain; and the prince of Titicaca aimed such a vigorous stroke at his foe, as laid him dead on the earth. The tyger indeed, as well as the condore, did their utmost to revenge their master's death: but all their fury was unavailing, and they both fell, at the same instant, pierced with wounds. The shattered remains of the enemy lost all their courage, when they beheld the bulwark of their army in the dust; they threw down their weapons, and begged for quarter, which put an end to the carnage.

The prince of Titicaca, during his captivity, had been informed, that a vast number of women of all nations, mourned their loss of liberty in the tyrant's palace, and that multitudes of the other sex were shut up in chambers, where they were fattened in order to be devoured. When he had received this information, he thought it would redound to his glory, to restore so many unhappy captives to their liberty, and, with that intention, marched to Mulobamba, where, at his arrival, he demanded the keys of the palace; after which he passed through the apartments, and, in the softest language, proclaimed liberty to the prisoners.

He

He had now no part of the palace, except the womens apartment, to visit; and it was some time before he could prevail on himself to appear there in person. He was apprehensive, lest the view of those lovely objects who resided there, should prove too ensnaring to his soul; but at last, he fortified himself with a proper resolution, and commanded his attendants to open the doors of the seraglio. But how great was the astonishment that immediately seized him! He had scarce set a foot in the third chamber, when he was lost in amazement; at the sight of the first object on which he cast his eyes, he became motionless and insensible, and had certainly sunk on the floor, had not two of his officers who accompanied him, caught him in their arms. The object he beheld, was the princess Cumac Riti.

H O U R XI.

No endeavours were omitted to recover him. Cumac Riti was alarmed at the condition in which she saw him; she approached him, and bedewed his face with her tears, and, by her endearing caresses, at last recalled him to life. The prince grew sensible of the benefit of her tender caresses: Is it you, then, Cumac Riti, said he, with the softest air, or is it your shade that presents itself to my view? The lovely symmetry of her features inclined him to believe she was the princess; but, as she appeared

considerably changed and emaciated, he knew not what to think : If you are the lady I seek, continued he, I shall account myself the happiest of mortals, to have found you. But what accident can have placed you here ? Give me an exact relation of the adventures that happened to you since our separation.

I shall with pleasure, replied Cumac Riti, give you the satisfaction you desire : and must inform you then, my lord, continued she, that I was bathing with my mother in a fountain, near the place where I was confined by the prince my father, when the tempest, which undoubtedly compelled you to take refuge in my palace, obliged my mother and me to quit the water with the greatest speed. We each of us went to take the habits we had left at a little distance, when a serpent of a monstrous size immediately appeared before us ; he seized my mother by the feet, and, as I imagined, devoured her in an instant.

I betook myself to flight, with all the horrors that fear could inspire, and ran to the palace to call for assistance, but wanted power to accomplish my desires.

This violence of my apprehension, joined with the idea of having seen my mother devoured by a serpent, deprived me of my senses, and overwhelmed me with despair, and you stood by me some time, before I was sensible of your presence. The tenders you made me of your assistance, obliged me to give some
attention.

attention to your discourse, and I was preparing to answer you, when I beheld the very serpent who had devoured my mother, appear at the door of the chamber where we then were. I gave you notice of the danger, and you, in vain, endeavoured to combat the monster. Your arm became inactive, your attempts were all unavailing, and your feet, by a secret enchantment, were fastened to the pavement, without any possibility of motion. This accident gave the monster full liberty to advance towards me, I fainted at his approach, and for a considerable time remained in a state of insensibility.

When I at last came to myself, my heart was oppressed with all the agonies of sorrow; but my astonishment was not to be expressed, when I found myself in a prison, that seemed to inclose me with walls of flesh, and, at the same time, heard myself called by a voice very familiar to me; I fancied it was all a dream; but was undeceived by my mother who uttered the voice. She acquainted me that we were in the belly of a serpent, who belonged to the king of Mulobamba, and that the tyrant, who was a great enchanter, had by his powerful art formed this monster, whom he dispatched every moon, in search of young virgins for his pleasure, and women to attend them.

My mother died with grief, the moment she was released from the belly of the monster, and I knew not how I became able to survive her.

From

From the first moment of my confinement in this place, I have been a prey to mortal afflictions. My health was considerably impaired, and I only waited for death to end my pains for ever. I daily invoked his aid, to deliver me from the hateful visits of a tyrant; tho' he never came into my presence but with an intention to offer me some consolation: sorrow alone seldom proves mortal, and the experience I then had of its inconsiderable efficacy, not permitting me to hope for an assistance from that quarter, I provided myself with a sharp knife, with which I intended to kill myself the first day of the next moon, which was the very time the tyrant had fixed for making me the victim of his brutality; a fatal day indeed, and I was then to be the partner of his bed, notwithstanding all the aversion to his person I could possibly discover.

At these words, the prince of Titicaca was relieved from all his apprehensions: he tenderly embraced the princess, and asked her if she could offer him her hand without any reluctance: My lord, said she, I make the utmost distinction between you and him, between my prince and a tyrant, my preserver, and one who would have ravished me; in a word, between a generous and reasonable man, and a lawless barbarian; I ought to be for ever averse to the inclinations of the one, and owe the most perfect obedience to the will of the other.

After

After this the prince marched with his troops, towards his own dominions. He testified his acknowledgments to his allies for the succours they had offered him, and left the conquered people in possession of their liberty, because he had taken up arms against them, with no other intention than to punish their king for his crimes. As to his beloved Cumac Riti, she accompanied him in his progress, and he caused her to be carried in a silver litter.

The prince after his arrival in the isle of Titicaca, espoused the fair Cumac Riti, with the utmost solemnity, and, on that occasion, gave a splendid feast to the heads of every family. At the opening of the festival, they were all regaled with the most exquisite food, after which they drank a variety of delicious liquors, and closed the day with dances: but how dreadful was the catastrophe! the very moment they were conducting the young bride to the prince's apartment, the eyes of all the assistants were begloomed with a thick cloud, which, as it dissipated by degrees, discovered a giant of a monstrous stature and most hideous form. This dreadful figure seized the princess, and disappeared from the assembly in another cloud as dark as the former.

The moment Acllahua came to this part of her relation, she was surprised to see the luminous arm appear before her unsummoned, and was preparing to demand the reason of what she beheld, when the voice, that was always in-

After

inseparable from that arm, addressed her in this manner; Daughter of the sun; the queen has caused it to be intimated to the Mamacuna, that she this day intends to visit the select virgins of Cusco, and she is now in her way from the palace to the sacred college, where, at her arrival, she will infallibly enquire for you. Consider then, what trouble and disreputation your absence will create. With the Ynca's permission, therefore, you shall discontinue your history at present; you may, to-morrow, acquaint him with the sequel, without interruption.

The Ynca Yahuarhuacac did not stay till Acllahua had intreated his consent to retire: I give you leave, said he, to proceed no farther in your relation at this time; return to Cusco as soon as possible, but to-morrow I shall have a great inclination to hear the sequel of the history of the prince of Titicaca, for I have an uncommon curiosity to know in what manner his dear Cumac Riti was restored to his arms.

My lord, replied Acllahua, you shall have all the satisfaction you desire, and the conclusion of this history is no less engaging than the beginning. After which, having intimated her desire to be conveyed to the college of the select virgins, the luminous arm was immediately obedient to her will.

The next morning Acllahua returned as usual to the Ynca's apartment, and resumed her history in this manner.

H O U R

H O U R XII.

All the countries, fire, were astonished at the sight of this prodigy, but no one had courage to utter a word. The prince alone, preserved his intrepidity, and ran to seek the lance, with which he had lain the tyrant of Mulobamba in the dust; he returned with it in a moment, and, in all the agonies of despair, darted it into the body of the giant, and was going to repeat the blow, when the spectre, with a dreadful voice, cried out, Forbear, rash man! dost thou imagine that he who has power to deprive thee of thy bride, in the presence of thy whole court, wants ability to elude thy rage? But, as the prince, notwithstanding this language, was ready to aim a second stroke at the monster; presumptuous wretch! said the voice once more, hold thy daring hand, or the blow thou intendest me, shall be fatal to thy wife. Ah cruel! replied the prince, how well canst thou improve my tenderness for Cumac Riti to thy advantage; but, dastard as thou art, thou darcest not appear to me in a human form; thou shalt either restore me my spouse, or I'll die beneath the weight of thine arm!

These menaces made no more impression on the giant's mind, than his body had before received from the lance. Give me thine attention, said he, I am the presiding genius who guards the Desert Island where the sun sets.
The

The magician Coran and myself have consented to unite thee to the princess Cumac Riti, on certain conditions. Coran had pre-ordained you both to mutual happiness, had you not seen each other till the princess had attained seventeen years and one day of her age, and thou hadst seen twenty years and one day of thine; you have beheld each other before the time prescribed, and thou art sensible how dear that interview cost you both. 'Tis now my turn to-day. I had taken a solemn oath to crown thee with blessings and delight, if thou didst not introduce the princess into the isle of Titicaca, till the period of her age I have mentioned; but thou hast conducted her hither, before the expiration of that term; for which I am indispensibly obliged to oppose thy happiness, and thou must never hope to enjoy her again, till thou hast sought her in the Desert Island, and accomplish what the oracle shall enjoin thee.

When the giant had pronounced these words, he entirely disappeared, and left the prince overwhelmed with a mortal sorrow. He was even ready to plunge the lance in his own bosom, but was prevented by a seasonable reflection that occurred to him the same moment. He recollected that the Laica, who had formerly succoured him, had, above all things, recommended constancy as essential to his future conduct; upon which he dutifully resigned himself to the gods. However, he could not
forbear

forbear saying to himself, How fatal are the terms on which I am commanded to recover the princess! I must take a long voyage to seek her in the Desert Island; but can any mortal hope to cross an immense ocean to a place so distant, that were a man driven thither by a tempest, he must despair of a return? The very birds cannot wing themselves a passage to this place, in less than several moons, so vast and so dangerous is the distance: and should I be so fortunate as to approach the Desert Island, how shall I be able to mollify the giant who presides there, and incline him to give me admission! And tho' I should prevail over all these difficulties, shall I be capable of executing what the oracle may command me to accomplish!

The prince who was lost in these melancholy reflections, when the propitious Laica presented herself before him. Ah prince, said she, you are easily dejected; do you want resolution then, to expose your life once more, for the possession of the charming Cumac Riti? You have only another step to take, and you shrink back. Are you then determined to renounce the felicity prepared for you? No, gentle Laica, replied the prince, I am resolved to expose myself to all imaginable perils; I am ready to sacrifice my life for the princess, and nothing shall dissuade me from my resolution, if you vouchsafe to aid me with your counsels.

Your

Your courage, replied the Laica, is now very commendable, and I will contribute my utmost endeavours to assist you in your enterprise. The most difficult circumstances, to any but yourself, would be to answer the three questions, which the guardian of the Desert Isle will ask you : but as you are endued with a competent judgment and capacity, I am persuaded you will acquit yourself with honour. Nothing now remains, but to furnish you with the means of passing safely thro' this vast expanse of waters that roll between our continent and the Desert Island; but to make this practicable, I will build you a vessel, which may be covered over whenever you please, and I will place a set of men therein, who shall row as long as the weather continues serene; and should any tempest rise, you may cause your vessel to be covered, and by that expedient save yourself from sinking; and, to prevent your being retarded by any such seasons, I will present you with a pair of tame condores, who shall be acquainted with the way you ought to steer. You must fasten them to the head of your vessel, and they will draw it after them while the storm continues.

The prince was delighted at the novelty of these expedients: Potent Laica, said he, you have restored my soul to its former tranquillity, by alleviating the difficulties that lay before me; you sooth me with consolation, and give me to hope I shall one day enjoy the happi-

ness

ness which has been promised me. I hope, said the Laica, you will soon obtain the full enjoyment of all your wishes; as to the accommodations I have promised you, they shall be all ready in two days, and therefore remember, to-morrow morning, to appoint a set of persons to govern your dominions in your absence; and, when that is done, proceed to the sea-shore, at Arequepa, in order to embark without delay.

The Laica having instructed the prince in all the particulars necessary for him to be acquainted with in the prosecution of this important enterprize, left him, that she might have an opportunity to order the necessary preparations for his voyage; and the prince, on his part, punctually observed all her directions.

This very evening, he constituted his chief minister Mora Conay governor of his territories, and early the next morning began his journey to the place from whence he had been directed to embark for his voyage.

When he came to Arequepa, he found the Laica, who waited for his arrival, and then shewed him the vessel she had prepared for him: it was compleatly covered; because at that time, the sea happened to be very tempestuous. The two condors, who were fastened to the prow, fluttered their wings, to intimate they only waited for orders to begin the voyage. The prince had brought with him the enchanted lance he received from the Laica, af-

ter she had delivered him from his dismal prison. Prince, said she, you will have no future occasion for that weapon, and therefore exchange it with me for this golden scepter.

The very moment the prince of Titicaca took the sceptre into his hand, he was sensible of an entire change through his whole person; and was immediately seized with horror at so extraordinary an event. Ah powerful Laica! cried he, what am I now become! I even seek for myself, and am no more to be found! Are these the promises of which you was lately so liberal! The Laica could not avoid smiling at the apprehensions of the prince, who now perceived he was only a phantom, and, at the same time, intirely unacquainted with the cause of such a transformation, on the Laica's motives for effecting it. Let not this change, said she, discompose you, for in your present condition you no longer want the necessaries of life; you have now no occasion of food, or wine, or sleep; and I have been obliged to proceed in this manner, both with respect to yourself, and the twenty rowers I have given you. This precaution has not only discharged you from the want of large quantities of provisions, with which your vessel would have been incumbered, but it has likewise secured you your life, should you be incapable of answering the questions that are to be proposed to you hereafter. Let me also add, that, as you will find Cumac Riti in the very same

con-

condition, it might be dangerous for you to behold her in any other state of being than that to which I have changed you. Begin your voyage, prince, added she, and should you be so happy as to gain admission into the Desert Island, the oracle will prescribe the time when you are to resume your proper form; and, till the arrival of that period, be very careful never to quit the sceptre I have given you.

H O U R XIII.

The prince finding himself re-animated at this discourse, took leave of the Laica, assuring her of his constant gratitude for all her favours: after which he lifted up one of the skins that covered the vessel, and entered into it, at the same time commanding the birds to direct their flight to the Desert Island: the very moment he spoke, they launched forward with the rapidity of a stream of lightning; the vessel shot from the shore, and cut thro' the waves, swifter than a shaft from the bow of an expert archer. The two condores continued on the wing, without a moment's intermission, 'till the next day, when the sky became serene, and a sudden calm smoothed the surface of the ocean; at which time, the rowers perceived it was incumbent on them to perform their duty; they took down the skins that covered the vessel, and had recourse to their oars, upon which the vessel began to swim with its former swiftness.

The voyage lasted more than two moons; at the conclusion of which period, tho' the sea was altogether unruffled by wind, a dreadful noise, like the roaring of a tempest, was heard. The prince at this ordered the rowers to cover the vessel, and was instantly obeyed; but the birds forbore to spring forward, every one concluded that what they heard was nothing more than the rumbling of the waves that burst among the rocks of the Desert Island; and indeed the prince, a few moments after, saw the tree from whence the oracles were uttered; he likewise discovered the rocks that surrounded the island, and as the men laboured at their oars without ceasing, the prince, in a few moments, saw the vessel in a little bay, on the shore of which it was easy to disembark.

The prince of Titicaca, in a transport of joy, was on the point of quitting the vessel, when he found himself restrained by a superior power, and, at the same instant, beheld the phantom who carried Cumac Riti from the island of Titicaca. It was, indeed, the guardian of the Desert Island, at whose aspect the prince trembled; but his terrors increased when he heard the giant, with a dreadful voice, utter these words; No mortal can enter this island, till he has given a just answer to the questions I am commissioned to propose: all those who are unable to solve them, are struck down without mercy and then cast into the sea: this is the punishment they receive for their temerity;

rity; and now art thou conscious thou hast wisdom sufficient to make thee undertake to answer me, and intrepidity enough to face death in all its terrors?

These last words, which seemed to reproach the prince with fear and irresolution, extremely provoked him: 'tis affronting me in the most sensible manner, said he with an air of resentment, to suspect me capable of fear; propose thy questions, for I stand prepared to hear them; upon which the giant made these demands:

Question I. Why has Pachacamac* caused this Desert Island to rise out of the middle of the ocean, and at such an immense distance from the continent?

* The Yncas not only worshipped the sun as a visible divinity, but had likewise the idea of the true God, whom they adored under the name of Pachacamac, which was composed of the words Pacha, which signifies the world, and Camac, which signifies the living; and thus the word Pachacamac was formed: and which signifies, that being who is the soul of the universe, or him who is to the universe, what the soul is to the body. They had likewise a greater veneration for Pachacamac than they expressed for the sun; for they durst not utter the name of the former, without all the marks of reverence and submission, whereas they pronounc'd the latter every moment. They never erected any temples to Pachacamac, nor offered sacrifices to him; and, as they had never beheld him, they contented themselves with adoring him from the bottom of their hearts: they regarded him as an unknown god. The magicians before the arrival of the Yncas, had very near the same persuasion, as to this particular, tho' they likewise paid their adoration to lions, tygers, serpents, &c.

Answ. His intention was, doubtless, to deter mortals from approaching that place, by giving them a view of the difficulties of arriving there.

Question II. What could induce Pachacamac to deter mortals from penetrating to this island?

Answ. I suppose he intended to check their curiosity to look into futurity.

Question III. For what reason did Pachacamac discountenance this curiosity in man?

Answ. Because, in my judgment, he would not have them tormented with an anticipation of sorrow, at the prospect of those calamities to which they might be reserved: for it would be the most insupportable affliction, to be acquainted with a misfortune impossible to be eluded.

The giant was perfectly satisfied with the prince's answers, and, at the same time, applauded the solidity of his judgment, and the intrepidity he had discovered. After which, he said, Thou art now permitted to set thy foot on this land, and the entrance into the Desert Island, is open to thee, without the least obstruction. Go to the oracle for tidings of Cumac Riti; he will acquaint thee with the place of her residence; but then, remember to accomplish all that shall be enjoined thee, otherwise thou wilt find thyself exposed to new misfortunes, much more afflictive than the former.

The

The prince at these words, left the vessel, and landed on the island. This island was of a circular form, and might contain eight hundred paces in circumference. In the center of it, Pachacamac had planted a tree, unknown to all the rest of the world, and the only one of the species. The branches perpetually bloomed with leaves, and extended themselves over all the island. This was the tree which pronounced the oracles, and the guardian genius of the island imparted them to the priests, divines and magicians, by whom they were communicated, when they thought fit, to other mortals. Under all the tree, a deep shade was diffused, and one might say, that the wings of eternal night were there expanded.

The prince wandered many hours, before he could find the spot where the tree was planted; but at last, he beheld it the very instant he began to despair of the discovery. He clasped his arms round the trunk, and vowed, if he recovered his beloved Cumac Riti, to testify his gratitude for such a blessing, by the celebration of a yearly festival; and, in particular, promised to sacrifice two dogs and as many sheep, to the oracle each returning moon.

The moment he had finished his vows and prayers, he perceived the trunk of the tree was in a strange agitation. The whole island trembled beneath it, and the branches clashing against each other, formed a sound that resem-

bled thunder. This unexpected event inspired the prince of Titicaca with a reverend horror; he shrunk up his shoulders, and first bowed his head, and then his whole body; he raised his eyes to heaven, and then immediately directed them to the earth; after which he laid the palms of his hands on his right shoulder, he kissed the air around him, and prostrated his face to the ground*; and whilst he continued in this posture, he heard the oracle utter these words:

“ Himan! thou art now permitted to behold
 “ thy wife, and are at liberty to carry her back
 “ to thine own country. A happy return to
 “ the isle of Titicaca, is allotted to you both;
 “ provided ye always keep the sceptres which
 “ preserve ye in your present state of being:
 “ but if, at any time, an inclination to re-
 “ sume your late forms, should induce ye to
 “ abandon your sceptre before your arrival in
 “ the valley of Arequepa, ye will then be se-
 “ parated from each other, and shall experi-
 “ ence many calamities before your re-union.
 “ Rise then, continued the oracle, and seek
 “ thy wife in this cavern.”

Whilst the oracle was pronouncing these words, the tree open'd, and discover'd the entrance into a deep cave, but sufficiently illuminated to render it accessible with ease. The prince, who beheld it as soon as he arose

* All these were the ceremonial marks of their adoration.

from the ground, entered into it, and found an out-let from the cavern into a garden, to which he directed his steps, and, after he had passed the several alleys, he at last found his dear Cumac Riti. She was walking in that verdant scene, and held a sceptre of silver in her hand. The moment the prince approached her, she was the first who broke silence: Generous prince, said she, how could you possibly renounce your liberty, to come to this melancholy solitude? My impatience to behold you, replied the prince, and the hopes of reconducting you to Titicaca, made me undertake this expedition; and I have reason to congratulate myself for the event since I have at last found you, and have the oracle's permission to return with you to my own country.

At these tidings Cumac Riti was transported with joy, and attempted to embrace her beloved Himan; twice she threw herself on his neck, and twice was convinced she embraced an airy shade. Did the barbarous guardian of the Desert Island, said she, consent to your arrival here, only to inflict the same punishment on you, to which I am doomed? No, replied the prince, the giant has not deluded me; nor was it he who effected the change you behold in my person. The Laica, to whom I have so many obligations, has transformed me in this manner, that I might arrive at this place with greater security: without her assist-

ance, I had still continued in the isle of Titicaca, for ever destitute of hopes to possess you. After this short conference, he acquainted her in what manner the Laica had made him determine to undertake the voyage to the Desert Island, and the accommodations she had procured him. He then informed her, how he entered into that island, and was particularly careful to relate to her the orders he had received from the oracle, and the obligations they were both under, to keep their sceptres 'till their arrival in the valley of Arequepa. As to the rest, continued he, let us resign ourselves to the mercy of the gods; and since they permit us to return to Titicaca, let us not continue long in this place.

H O U R XIV.

After this short conversation, the prince and princess passed from the garden into the cavern, and from thence immediately ascended to the Desert Island. At their arrival there, they renewed their adorations, and prostrated themselves before the oracle, with grateful acknowledgments for the discoveries he had vouchsafed them. When they rose from the ground, they saw the tree was closed up, rendering the entrance into the cavern no longer visible. They did not continue in that place, but went to find their vessel: but, as they were in danger of being bewildered in the gloom, the giant, who

Titi-
possess
ainted
e him
Desart
d pro-
ow he
ularly
ad re-
ations
eptres
uepa.
resign
d since
us not

ce and
avern,
to the
ey re-
them-
know-
ouch-
ound,
ng the
rifiable.
t went
danger
giant,
who





Prince Himan and the Prince Cumac Riti resign their Scepters to the Taisca & the Guardian Giant off of Saint Island.

who was the guardian of the island, and at that time found himself sufficiently avenged, came to their assistance, and conducted them to their vessel. The lovers then embarked, and proceeded in their voyage by the alternate aid of the birds and rowers, as the sea happened to be either calm or tempestuous.

They had no sooner landed on the shore of Arequepa, but they found the guardian giant of the Desert Island in company with the benevolent Laica. The giant received the silver sceptre from the hand of Cumac Riti, and the prince delivered his golden sceptre to the Laica from whom he had before received it, and at the same instant, the prince and princess were restored to their proper forms. They tenderly embraced each other, and the giant, as well as the Laica, when they departed, promised that no future accident should ever interrupt the happiness of the two lovers, who now returned to Titicaca. In this island they lived in perfect felicity and the softest union, and became the parents of a numerous progeny. They passed a length of years in a constant freedom from all inquietudes, till at last, at the close of an unblemished old age, they sunk gently down to the tomb, accompanied with the universal sorrow and regret of all their subjects.

The Ynca Yahuarhuacac listened to this history with great attention and delight, but was unwilling Acclahua should be sensible of

his satisfaction. I confess, said he, the prince of Titicaca discovered some constancy of mind, amidst his misfortunes; but a single instance is of no great importance, and very far from justifying what you asserted. You had the presumption to tell me, that a vast number of barbarian princes have supported their calamities with the utmost fortitude, and you must therefore relate me another history at least; I must then judge by the particulars, whether you have been punctual to your promise or not; and this alone shall regulate my future proceedings towards you.

Sire, replied Acellahua, I can easily give you the satisfaction you require; and since you condescend to favour me with your attention, I shall enter upon a relation, which I am persuaded will acquit me of my promise.

THE HISTORY of Prince HOUAC.

I Must acquaint your majesty, said Acellahua, that towards the sea-coasts lies a valley called Fanasica, or the Vale of Desolation. Before the Ynca Mango Copac was sent down to the earth by the sun his parent, a very powerful prince governed this valley and all the dominions that lie between those territories and Arequepa, and form an extent of near eighty leagues: but the particular period of time in which he reigned is not known. This prince had a son named Houac, who was trained up
in

in all the exercises suitable to his birth; and with these advantages was graced by nature, with a very amiable person, which in those times was alone sufficient to make him pass for a very accomplished prince. His father loved him with the utmost fondness, but durst not indulge himself with the presence of his son, because the children of the greatest lords in his dominions had conceived a mortal aversion to the prince, and made frequent attempts on his life.

Prince Houac was banished, therefore, to the province of Camata, and this precaution preserved the son, tho' it proved fatal to the father. The inhabitants of Nanasca, grew dissatisfied at their being deprived of the heir to the throne, and frequently importuned the king to recall him, while the enemies to the young prince, tho' with very different views, added their solicitations to the same effect: they even proceeded farther, and one day with an air of authority, required their sovereign to send for his son, and upon his refusal, assassinated him with the utmost barbarity. After which they raised to the throne a person elected out of their own body, and who perhaps was the most impious of all men who had ever lived.

The new prince was acknowledged as such, not only by the people of Nanasca, but those of Attica, Veuna, Atiquipa and Guelca. He likewise employed his utmost endeavours to induce

duce the nations of the Havari and Camata to submit themselves to his empire, but without any success. These faithful people preserved their allegiance to their lawful prince, placed the crown on his head, and promised to sacrifice all their lives to maintain him on the throne.

The division was succeeded by a bloody war, every place glittered with hostile arms; and after several combats that were no way decisive, both parties resolved to come to a general engagement, by the event of which, the quarrel was to be determined. The two armies, which were composed of all the people who were in a condition to appear in a military capacity, assembled in the valley of Nanasca, and began the battle with loud acclamations. The two competitors presented themselves where-ever the greatest dangers were visible; and prince Houac, in particular, performed actions that were incredible, and in each place where he appeared, was altogether irresistible: but victory, as it generally happens in instances of this nature, abandoned the better cause and favoured the army that was most numerous. The forces of prince Houac, were inferior to those of his adversary by one half. All the inhabitants of Havari and Camata were either slain or wounded, but they chose rather to be cut to pieces, than either retreat or acknowledge themselves conquered;

quered; and the combat was not ended till they intirely wanted men to maintain it.

Prince Houac was found among the wounded; but the conqueror would not permit any of his soldiers to kill him: he caused his wounds to be dressed, with an intention to reserve him to grace his triumph; and afterwards to have him devoured at a great festival, which he determined to exhibit for the celebration of his victory. With this intention he consigned him to the care of one of his officers named Casqui, telling him, at the same time, that his life should be responsible for his prisoner, if he suffered him to escape. It happened very fortunately, that this officer of the guards, to whose vigilance the prince was confined, was one of those who secretly abhorred the usurper, and he went the very first night to wait on his prisoner. My lord, said he, there are some who interest themselves in your misfortunes, more than you imagine. I was ever a faithful servant to the king your father, and could not, without the utmost reluctance, behold the unfortunate revolution of your affairs: and since I am so happy, as to have an opportunity of making some acknowledgment to the son, for the obligations I have received from the father, I cannot possibly neglect so agreeable a conjuncture: I am come to tell you, that you are master of your liberty, save yourself, whilst the night favours you with its darkness; fly from this land of barbarity, and withdraw from the de-

destruction that awaits you. Your generosity, replied the prince, charms me more than the offer you have made me, and I am infinitely delighted to find there is yet a person, to whom the memory of my father is precious; but I should make a bad return to your exalted goodness, could I possibly consent to save my own life at the expence of that of my preserver: I am sensible, that my escape from danger, will expose you to inevitable death, and it would be great injustice in me to suffer you to lose your life for your fidelity to me: Be not in the least uneasiness, said the officer, at any danger I may happen to incur; I have friends capable of protecting me: but what consequence soever may happen to ensue, I shall think myself compleatly happy, in having contributed to your preservation. This, returned the prince, is what I absolutely refuse to accept, and I never will owe my life to the expedient you propose, unless you will likewise save yourself, and be the companion of my flight. We will share the same dangers; and should the gods be favourable to us in another land, we will divide their blessings between us; but if we are to be reserved for future calamities, each of us will at least have the consolation of beholding a partner in his adversity.

The officer, after some deliberation on the prince's proposal, made him this reply; Yes, Sir, I am determined to attend you in your flight, and as the present moment is very precious,

cious, let us immediately think of our security: if you will be guided by my opinion, we will direct the course to the province of Hatun Rucana *. I have heard surprising accounts of the queen of that country, and let us experience how true they be. After this discourse, each of them armed himself with a lance, a bow and a quiver, and a sword, and then they proceeded on their way.

After a considerable space of time, for the valley of Nanasca is above seventy leagues distant from Hatun Rucana, they arrived at the frontiers of this province: they were surprised to find the avenues guarded; however, they advanced forwards to enquire of the guards, whether they might have free access into that country. They were answered with much civility, that the province was entirely free to strangers; but for all that the guards detained them for some time, though with such an air of deference and respect as created no suspicion of any bad intentions in such a proceeding. After they had stopped our two travellers, they immediately disarmed them, and attentively surveyed them from head to foot, and caused them to turn about several times; but their chief attention was employed on prince Houac, they stroaked his reins and legs, and the more they examined him, the greater was the satisfaction they discovered.

* Hatun Rucana signifies Great Rucana.

The

The travellers, who were unacquainted with the meaning of such a strict examination, did not seem to be much satisfied with the ceremony; but, as they were the weakest party, they were obliged to submit to the present necessity.

H O U R X V.

When the examiners had finished their inspection, one of the most aged among them*, looking stedfastly on prince Houac, expressed himself in this manner; This young man is exceedingly well proportioned, and has an air of great activity in leaping; it were to be wished, that the person who is to have the honour of sharing our queen's bed, may have such an amiable appearance; we must conduct him to the palace, and if I am not much deceived, we have met with what we wished for. Speak young hero, continued he, can you leap to any perfection?

Casqui perceiving the prince had no inclination to answer that question, made the reply himself. If the matter were of any importance, said he, you might put us to the trial; and tho' activity in leaping, is the least of my companion's accomplishments, his appearance is sufficient to convince you, that you will not be disappointed in any expectations you may entertain of his ability in that kind of exer-

* The oldest people always spoke first, as having most experience.

cise: but may we in our turn, know why you question us in this manner? You shall be satisfied immediately, replied the guard who first spoke: We have a queen, who is now one and twenty years of age, and whose wisdom is altogether as engaging as her beauty: she is a virgin; and we see very little probability of her marriage. According to a famous oracle, she is to be espoused by that man only who shall leap over a channel exceedingly broad, and sunk so deep into the earth, that the bottom is unfathomable. It is distant a league from the palace, and the same man who shall have agility enough to spring from one edge of this channel to the other, will be capable of vanquishing a giant thirty cubits high, who has for several years filled this province with desolation: he stops all passengers who come in his way, and obliges them to relate some history to him, and if he happens not to think it entertaining, he devours the historian without mercy; but suffers those whose relations please him, to pass unmolested on their way.

When the prince heard this part of the guard's account, he interrupted him with an air of impatience. Conduct us immediately, said he, to the palace of your queen, and we will see how this affair will end. You shall be there in three hours, replied the guard, and our orders are to conduct all strangers thither, who shall approach our frontiers. They are invited to leap over the channel, but if they refuse

refuse to make the attempt, or decline it thro' fear, they are permitted to depart in full liberty. Very few persons hitherto have made the essay; not one of them could attain the middle of the channel, and all who have endeavoured to leap over it, have perished in the abyss. After this discourse, the guard ordered two of his companions to conduct the strangers to the palace.

In a few hours, the prince and Casqui came to a great square, bounded on the right and left-hand, with a long range of buildings, wherein the queen's relations resided. In the front a wall was raised, and continued from one end of the square to the other; and, in the middle of the wall, a gate opened into a garden, equal to the square in extent. In this garden was the queen's palace, composed of two great pavilions of wood, covered with plates of gold and silver, which were disposed with admirable symmetry. At an equal distance, between these pavilions, were two statues of stone, eighteen cubits high; one represented a man devouring a young virgin, the other was the form of a woman, destroying a youth with the same cruelty, and from the left side of each statue, towards the region of the heart, the head of a tyger, who seemed to prey upon them, was extended. The guards acquainted the two strangers, that these statues had been erected to perpetuate the remembrance of a punishment inflicted on two giants, who devoured

voured all the children they could seize; and that at last, a wise Laica, having transformed two tygers into a young man and a virgin, with a command to resume their natural form, as soon as the giants had swallowed them down, they accordingly devoured the two cannibals.

Prince Houac thought this relation a very instructive lesson for himself, and considered it as a good omen. To what fatality, said he to Casqui, are mankind allotted! Their most inconsiderable enemies are the more formidable, the less they are regarded. Who could have imagined, that these giants, who are able to depopulate whole nations, should be reduced to the inability of preserving themselves from the snares of a woman? Why then should not I accomplish, by industry and prudence, what the Laica performed by her enchantments? I am only to leap cross the channel, and this I shall infallibly do unless the oracle has required an impossibility.

Casqui shuddered at this discourse; Ah! my lord, said he, have you well considered what was related to you, of those who have hitherto engaged in this adventure? They sunk down the precipice, and therefore never hazard yourself in so fatal an experiment; the calamities of the unfortunate ought to teach the wise to avoid such a fate.

Whilst they conversed in this manner, they were introduced by the guards into the pavilion on the right-hand, where the queen usually

usually resided. The prince was surprised at the magnificence and symmetry of the first apartments through which he passed : but when he entered the hall which the queen honoured with her presence, his imagination was no longer filled with the splendor of the building; a more engaging view attracted all his attention, and his eyes had then no other object but the princess. She was seated on a throne of silver, amidst a shining circle of young ladies, who formed her court, but were infinitely surpassed by their sovereign, in majesty and blooming beauty. The prince at the first glance, was perfectly charmed, and inflamed with love. Adorable queen, said he, you see at your feet an unhappy prince, to whom misfortunes have long been familiar, but who now counts his sufferings the greatest felicity of his life; and since I have the happiness to behold you, and am not destitute of hopes to possess you, I esteem myself the most fortunate of men. I have been informed of the oracle relating to your nuptials, and the welfare of your people; and whatever difficulties may attend the conditions, I offer my best endeavours to surmount them: so lovely a reward is a sufficient inducement, even to attempt impossibilities; and tho' there should be no prospect of succeeding, it will be always glorious to have aspired so high.

The queen, who likewise beheld the prince with admiration, felt her heart warmed with tender impressions in his favour: when he had

finished

finished his discourse, Prince, said she, tho' you had not informed me of your high rank, your language and appearance would have convinced me you were no common person : but, I must tell you, the enterprize you propose to undertake, is extremely difficult to be accomplished, and yet you discover such an undaunted mind, that I flatter myself you will succeed in the attempt, after such numbers have failed. The oracle may indeed, demand a very difficult exploit, but it certainly would not require any impossibility: but, should you prove unfortunate in the trial, what other mortal can ever hope to prevail! I therefore consent to your undertaking the adventure of the channel, and leave the time to your own choice.

H O U R XVI.

Prince Houac would have testified his acknowledgments to the queen, for the sentiments she entertained in his favour, but that princess would not permit him: I am desirous to know, said she, what accident conducted you to my dominions; but as I imagine you need some refreshment as well as repose, I willingly defer the satisfaction of my curiosity; you shall now be conducted to the next pavilion, for I will not suffer such a guest as yourself to be lodged any where but in my own palace.

Four

Four of the queen's ladies, understanding her intentions by a sign she gave them, immediately desired the prince to follow them, and then conducted him and Casqui into the pavilion that rose on the left-hand. At their arrival there, two of these ladies prepared beds, whilst the others went to order a collation for the strangers. In an instant they were regaled with a variety of exquisite delicacies, and fruits of every kind; after which, they were presented with a most delicious liquor, and when they had finished their repast, the ladies left them to their repose.

The amiable qualities of the prince, had made such an impression on the heart of the young queen, during the time of their short conference, that she could not forbear asking all the ladies around her, their sentiments of her guest. Powerful queen, said they, it would be the greatest misfortune, should a prince, who seems master of so many charming accomplishments, perish in the adventure he proposes to undertake: but we have reason to believe, the gods have made him so amiable, with no other intention, than to make him merit the title of your spouse; and not one of all the number, who have aspired to that happiness, seemed half so deserving as this prince.

This discourse, which was far from flattery, gave the queen no displeasure. My thoughts said she, agree with yours; and yet I cannot overcome

overcome the apprehensions I feel on this account ; I am even inclined to refuse him the adventure of the channel ; but since the oracle has commanded it, and no one can offer me his hand, but on that condition, he must necessarily expose himself to all the dangers.

The prince on his part, before he composed himself to slumber, directed his discourse to Casqui in this manner ; Ah, my dear friend, said he, how lovely are the features of the queen of Hatun Rucana ! What a profusion of charms cover her whole person ! What an air of majesty ! What amiable graces shine all around her ! I never, till now, beheld so much beauty ! How infinite are my obligations to you, my dearest Casqui for inspiring me with an inclination to visit these dominions ! Had I remained in the peaceable possession of the throne of Nanasca, my happiness would not have been comparable to that I now propose to enjoy. And for my part, interrupted Casqui, I reproach myself extremely for being the cause of your arrival in this province ; but however, I flatter myself, that before you engage in this adventure, your eyes will be open to the dangers that threaten you, and that the melancholy fate of your predecessors, will, as I have already intimated, incline you to prevent your own destruction. A considerable time was spent in such kind of conversation ; but Casqui was not able to make the impression he desired on the prince.

The next morning, as the queen was on the point of sending to know if her guests were awake, a messenger came from the prince, to intreat her permission for his approach to her presence; and the queen having given him to understand that his company would be very acceptable to her, the prince immediately presented himself before her. He had taken the refreshment of a bath, and was dressed in a magnificent cincture*, covered with emeralds and turquoise stones, and curiously embroidered with studs of gold and silver. The ladies who were commissioned to attend him, had presented him with this habit by the order of their sovereign, and the new graces it diffused over his person, compleatly charmed the queen; and, at the same time, he grew more inflamed each moment he cast his eyes on that amiable princess.

During this interview, the queen testified to him her impatience of knowing to what adventure she owed the happiness of his presence in her territories: 'Tis so uncommon, said she, to see princes undertake long journeys, that I intreat you to give me the satisfaction I desire.

Madam, replied the prince, you must permit me to acquaint you, that something of more importance lies before us at present; you have been so gracious as to leave the time

* The Indians of those nations, covered their bodies with a vesture of linnen, or cotton, which flowed down from the reins to the middle of the thigh; to this habit, princes added a variety of ornaments.

for my undertaking the adventure of the channel to my choice, and I only wait for your consent to make the trial. I intreat you to order all your court to be assembled, that they may be witnesses of my success or destruction: let what will be the event I shall not languish long in expectation of the greatest happiness to which I could possibly aspire: should I be so fortunate as to succeed in my enterprise, I shall then have time sufficient to inform you of the particulars you desire to know; but if I am doomed to perish, Casqui will give your majesty that satisfaction.

Prince, replied the queen, you seem so resolutely determined, that it would be in vain to dissuade you to defer this adventure, and therefore I consent to your request: at the same time she ordered it to be proclaimed in the great square, that prince Houac was ready to undertake the adventure of the channel.

At these tidings, all the queen's relations, and the elders of the people, who were then at court, assembled in the great square of the palace, and ranged themselves in two lines; after which the queen placed herself on a litter, supported by eighteen men, and caused the prince to be seated at her side, and then the procession began in this order: first, the elders of the people walked three and three in a rank; the queen's kindred followed in the same order; the litter of that princess came next, attended by a great number of ladies; and the cavalcade was closed by the life-guards.

In the space of about an hour and an half, they arrived at the channel, which was twenty-one cubits wide; the prince was not in the least dismayed at the view; on the contrary, he addressed himself to the queen, with joy sparkling in his eyes; Madam, said he, I now behold the most amiable day of my life; how great will be my felicity, if I spring to the other side of this gulph! My lord, replied the queen, could my vows contribute to your success, the adventure would be soon accomplished. Ah, charming queen, cried the transported prince, as he descended from the litter, victory is infallible, since you interest yourself in my welfare. The queen upon this, presented him her bosom to kiss; and the prince, after so great a favour, nimbly leaped from the litter.

All the spectators were charmed at the prince's amiable mein, and invoked the gods to be favourable to him; but whilst each individual was directing his vows and supplications to heaven, the prince retired fifteen paces from the chasm, and then sprung forward, with the swiftness of lightning; he darted thro' the air with exceeding rapidity, leaped cross the channel, and appeared triumphant on the other side, at the very time they imagined him on the opposite edge: What propitious divinity, cried they, has sent us so charming a prince, to be the deliverer of our nation!

But

But their admiration was prodigiously increased, when they beheld the prince leap over the channel a second time, to return to the queen: the acclamations were then redoubled, and each spectator endeavoured to testify his joy: the queen herself could not moderate the tender sentiments of her soul; she congratulated the prince on his success, and affectionately folded him in her arms; after which, turning to the assembly, Let your gratitude, said she, correspond with mine, and be equally affected at the sight of your deliverer.

This exhortation was immediately succeeded by shouts of gladness: Long life, said they, to the inimitable hero, who has accomplished the adventure of the channel! May he live to destroy the giant, and be the happy consort of our great queen! The same acclamations were continued to the palace, to which the queen and prince returned, in the same order as before. The remainder of the day was passed in public rejoicings, in which the grandees and commonalty shared with a grateful emulation.

Towards the close of day, the prince came into the queen's pavilion; Madam, said he, as he approached her, one condition still remains to be complied with; I must vanquish the giant, and relieve your people from the scourge which has so long afflicted them. Ah, prince! replied the queen, you are preparing to expose yourself to new perils; but to my comfort, the most difficult part is already ac-

complished; what power can resist him, who has leaped cross the channel so many cubits broad? Madam, said the prince, I am exceedingly delighted at the hopes you entertain: and to confirm you in that persuasion, I must acquaint you, that I have already formed a stratagem for the monster's destruction, for I am sensible it would be impossible to vanquish him by mere force: as soon as the morning appears, I will endeavour to find him without delay, and in a little time you shall have tidings of his death; I only request your majesty to let me have two men and a litter, and some calebashes, filled with ynchic candied with honey*. You shall be supplied, said the queen, with all you desire; upon which he retired, to pass the night in his pavilion.

H O U R XVII.

The dawn had scarce began to glow in the sky, when the prince rose from his bed, and ordered the calebashes to be brought to him, filled with ynchic, with which he mixed a powder, he had procured the preceding night, from the queen's chief physician. When the mixture was compleated, he placed the calebashes on the litter, and ordered the two bear-

* The ynchic is a very peculiar fruit, resembling almonds in flavour. When it is eaten raw it disorders the head, but if it be candied with honey it is very wholesome and delicate, and accounted an exquisite food.

ers to follow him; after which he armed himself with a sabre made of a wood as hard as iron*, and fastened to his cincture a poniard of the same substance.

With this equipage the prince set out to find the giant, and had not advanced above twenty leagues before he discovered him at a distance, sitting under a great tree; the sight of the monster filled the two bearers with horror; but they were animated by the prince, who assured them they had nothing more to fear than himself, and that neither of them should sustain any injury; upon which they continued their progress; and, as they approached nearer, they beheld two men, one of whom had but one hand, and the other wanted both a hand and a leg; they were seated on each side of the giant, and the prince when he discovered them said to his two attendants, We are come, my friends, very seasonably, to deliver these unhappy men; but let us march on as if we intended to proceed farther. They had already advanced a few paces beyond the tree, when the giant with a dreadful voice, cried, Stay, presumptuous wretches! let me see what you carry on your litter: My lord, replied the prince, they are calabashes filled with ynchic, which the queen our mistress sends to one of her relations, a few

* The Indians never use iron, tho' it is found in great plenty in their mines: gold, silver, copper and lead, are the only metals they employ; but their weapons, are generally made of the hardest wood.

leagues from hence. Is it ynchic then ! cried the giant, by heaven I will taste it ! My lord, said the prince, you may dispose of it as you please : Yes, and of you too, replied the monster ; sit down here this moment or I will fell you to the earth.

When the prince and the littermen were seated, the giant spoke to them in this manner : You are now to hear the history of these two men, whom I seized this morning when I rose from sleep ; I would not permit them to begin till I had a third in my power, but now you are five in number, we shall see on which of you the lot will fall ; for I declare to you before hand, that he whose history is least agreeable to me shall die : do you who appear to be the oldest begin, said he to one of the travellers, named Pahama, and who had been seized first that morning. When the giant had given this command, he stretched his hand to the litter and seized two calabashes of ynchic, which he eat whilst Pahama related his history in this manner.

**THE HISTORY OF PAHAMA the traveller,
and the Laica LAROU.**

MY lord, twenty years are now expired, since a certain canton of this province was in subjection to a famous robber, who only supported himself by plunder, and invading other men : his power and barbarity rendered him

him the terror of the neighbouring inhabitants, and he lived in the country like a furious tyger, who devours all before him. One day he placed himself in ambuscade in a little wood, with an hundred of his companions, and swore that for the space of the first hour he would not injure any one passenger; but as no body appeared all that time he took another oath, to kill every man who should fall into his hands the second hour; but it happened that not a mortal passed by during that period: at last he made a dreadful vow, to destroy every man, woman and child, who should travel that way during the third hour; and unfortunately for passengers, he had but too many opportunities to shew his punctuality to his promise.

It happened that thirty-nine of my brothers, and myself, agreed that day to visit one of our uncles who was sick; as we were obliged to take our way through the wood where the ambush was formed, it was our misfortune to fall insensibly into the snare. Very good! cried the robber, the moment he saw us, we have not lost our time, but shall have a fine repast this day: at which he immediately attacked us at the head of all his people, who soon inclosed us with their superior numbers. We defended ourselves to desperation; but the combat was maintained with too much inequality, and after fourteen of my brothers had been killed and eight wounded, the remainder of

us fell on our knees, to implore mercy from the conqueror : all our prayers and tears were unavailing ; they first bound and then conveyed us to their habitation ; the dead and wounded were carried on branches of trees, formed into the shape of a litter, and the rest of us danced and sung, to convince our enemies, that the fate we were reserved to had no power to intimidate us. I was one of the wounded, and had lost an arm in the combat ; however, I sung and danced like the rest of my brothers, but I confess, my lord, I had no great inclination at that time to the gaiety I affected.

We were at last brought to a large open place, before the dwelling of our executioners, and and there they fastened us to several trees, from whence we had the dismal spectacle of several of our brothers fate. Those who had been killed and some of the wounded were devoured raw, and others half roasted ; and as the number was considerable, our enemies had food enough to satiate their barbarous hunger. Part of this feast was even distributed among several who had not assisted at the combat, and the entrails, feet and heads were left to the meaner people among them. Myself, and those of my brothers who had not been devoured, were shut up in a cave apart from each other, where our tyrants nourished us with roots and dried fish, and a liquor very agreeable to the palate.

I was entirely ignorant how my brothers passed their time in their prison; for my part, after I had finished my repast, I threw myself on a heap of dry grass which was scattered in a corner, to serve me for a bed; but I had scarce stretched myself upon it, when my ears were alarmed with a confused noise which I was unable to distinguish. At this I sat up upon my bed, and listened with much attention: in a little time I grew sensible that I heard a plaintive voice under the earth, and for my better satisfaction laid my ear close to the ground. I then distinctly heard the accents of a woman, who bewailed herself in these terms. Alas! how dismal is it for me to be thus buried alive! O mighty Rimac*! can you permit a Laica, ever benevolent to mortals, to fall a victim in the flower of her age, to the vengeance of a barbarian! I solemnly swear to crown any one who shall deliver me with all imaginable blessings.

These complaints filled me with compassion; but the recompence promised by the Laica for her liberty, made me desirous of deserving it. Wise Laica, said I to the prisoner, is there any possibility of assisting you, and can it be in

* In the valley of Rimac, stood an idol shaped like a man, who answered all questions proposed to him, and therefore both the idol and the valley were called Rimac, which signifies Him who speaks. This idol was held in great veneration by the Yncas themselves. In this valley the Spaniards have built the city of Lima, so that Rimac and Lima are the same.

the power of a miserable cripple? Yes, my son, replied the Laica, you may easily deliver me; tear up the earth to the depth of two fingers, you will then find a copper ring, which you are to draw towards you.

I obeyed the voice, and scratched up the earth as I was directed, and when I had found the ring, pulled it to me with all my strength, and after a few repeated efforts raised it out of the ground. But I was surprised to see a cage of the same metal fastened to this ring, and much more to behold in the cage a bird that spoke. You are only now to force open the lock, said the bird, and all will be accomplished. As I had a knife of stone about me, I easily cut the copper wire that fastened the lock; at which the bird sprung out, and in its flight changed into a young lady, whose features the obscurity of my prison prevented me from distinguishing. How fortunate is my lot, said I, throwing myself at her feet, in restoring you to liberty! I praise the gods for suffering me to fall into the hands of robbers, who have afforded me an opportunity of offering you this service; and now if I must die I will die with satisfaction.

I am delighted at these generous sentiments, replied the Laica, but your disinterested behaviour does not discharge me from the gratitude I owe you; and now, to give you the first instance of it, I restore your arm to you. The same moment she touched me, and I saw the
arm

arm I had lost re-united to my body. I shall treat you in such a manner for the future, said she, that you shall not repent your generosity in giving me my liberty. Hear me with attention, son, added the Laica; you must act in the manner I shall now direct: this very night you shall hear your prison-door open, and let that be the signal for you to go and awaken your brothers, and the rest of the captives in the adjoining caves, the doors of which you shall likewise find open; and whilst sleep shall have locked up the senses of your enemies, furnish yourselves with weapons in the hut that serves for a magazine; after which set it on fire, and when it flames utter a loud cry; your foes will run out at the noise, upon which you shall assault and slay them without sparing one. When this expedition is over, direct your brothers to visit their uncle, and only keep one of them with you. At the same time restore all the prisoners to liberty and then return back with that brother you shall select for your companion, and go to the little wood where you were all attacked.

These orders of the Laica were too important to be forgotten in the least particular; and when she left me, I repeated them in my memory, and meditated on them till the night was far advanced. At last, I heard a noise at the door of my prison, and going to it found it wide open; at which, I concluded it was now time for me to execute my commission.

I went into all the caves, the doors of which were likewise open, and then awaked my brothers and their companions, making them at the same time, acquainted with the orders I had received; and there was not one who had the least reluctance to put them in execution. Our number amounted to four hundred men of gallant resolution, and we immediately repaired to the magazine of arms; some took sabres, other lances, javelins, hatchets and slings: we then went to the common fire, which was kindled in the middle of the place; there we lighted our torches, and threw them on the roof of the magazine, which, as it was made of wood, immediately burst into a flame: we then shouted aloud, and awakened all our enemies, who precipately ran towards the fire, but in their way, met with those who were in a vere good disposition to receive them. We thundered upon them, and slew them without mercy; and indeed it was a real carnage. Above eight hundred persons, as well men as women, sunk under our blows. After this action we visited all the caverns and huts, and spared no mortal we found. These visits, and the slaughter, employed us till the break of day.

When this bloody expedition was over, I permitted all the prisoners to depart, and took my leave of my brothers, who went on to our uncle's habitation; but I first caused them to decide my lot, which of them should continue with

with me. The lot fell on one of the youngest, and we both took our way to the wood, where we arrived in a short time.

H O U R XVIII.

I there found the Laica, whom I had released from captivity; she was about twenty-four years of age, tall, and exactly shaped, and perfectly charming; I was immediately enamoured of her beauty, but my surprise was inexpressible, to see the employment in which she was engaged. In her hand she held a large scourge, with which she alternately lashed the bodies of an old man and a youth, with the utmost severity. They were both fastened to a tree, and at every stroke they received, made the woods echo with dreadful cries; I was seized with horror at so sad a spectacle; Wife Laica, said I, what is this you do! I am touched with compassion for the old man, and have no less pity for the youth: look on the condition to which you have reduced them; their bodies are covered with blood! Come hither, my son, replied the Laica, and when you have attended to what I have to say, you will no longer pity these impious wretches, but your sentiments will agree with mine, when I have acquainted you with the injuries they have offered me, and a number of other persons.

I am the daughter, continued she, of one of the prophets of the great Rimac: my father

is

is called Ka-Stamski, and he educated me with the greatest care: he instructed me in poesy and incantations, and gave me a perfect knowledge of plants and herbs. I never misapplied my abilities to the prejudice of any mortal; but, on the contrary, was industrious to give pleasure to all, and my greatest satisfaction was to relieve the unfortunate.

One day, as I was taking a progress through the air, on the back of a condore, I met with this wretched old man, travelling the same element, in a chariot drawn by sixty neblis*. This infamous forcerer carried with him a young woman, who cried in a very moving manner. I was touched with her affliction, and when I had commanded the neblis to stop, I approached, and demanded of the ravisher, if there were not virgins enough in the world, and if the laws of humanity authorised him in the rape of a married woman?

As his power was infinitely inferior to mine, he was constrained to answer me with a respectful submission. Potent Laica, said he, do not deprive me of the only enjoyment that can make the remainder of my days happy. I am enamoured of this young lady and shall die with despair, if you force her from my arms. Execrable forcerer! cried I, thou abandoned

* A bird found in Peru; they soar prodigiously high, are armed with strong talons, and are of a colour tending to sable.

votary of Cupay †! wilt thou always delight in malignity? Alas! interrupted the young woman, with weeping eyes, the wretch has snatched me from the arms of a beloved husband, to whom I have been married but four days! I ordered the ravisher to convey the bride back to her habitation; and he immediately obeyed, for it was impossible for him to resist me.

Some time after, he came to my cavern where I resided. Powerful Laica, said the traitor, as he approached me, I am come to reconcile myself with you. I sincerely repent of all my crimes, and will, for the future, employ my ministration for the welfare of mortals, to as great a degree as I ever misapplied it to their prejudice. I intreat you, therefore, to assist me with your counsels, that I may the easier disengage myself from my pernicious habits of mind.

I was exceedingly charmed at this discourse, and believed his conversation to be as sincere as he pretended. I applauded the perfidious wretch, for the resolution he had taken, and exhorted him to persist in those sentiments; besides this, I promised him my friendship, and assured him of my assistance to the utmost of my ability. In a word, I entertained him

† The Indians have some idea of the devil; they generally call him Cupay, and when they pronounce this name, they spit on the earth as a sign of malediction and execration.

several days, and he carried on his dissimulation with the utmost dexterity. Laica! my dear mistress! said he, when he took his leave of me, I am confounded at your civilities, and know not how to testify the gratitude with which I am affected: but I have yet one favour to solicit, which is, that you, as an evidence of our reconciliation, would do me the honour to pass a few days at my mansion, and you yourself shall then bear testimony to the alteration of my conduct.

I promised to visit him the next day, and was punctual to my appointment. He received me, to all appearance, in the most obliging manner. He regaled me with partridges, turtles and fruits; and after the first repast, presented me with the most delicious cora* that could possibly be drank. I was altogether unaccustomed to that liquor, and the little I drank, filled my head with fumes, which soon sunk me into a deep slumber, and then the barbarian accomplished his treacherous intentions.

You must know, continued the Laica, that tho' such beings as myself are of an exalted class, we have no manner of power, during our slumbers; and Rimac, to demonstrate that all power in this world is limited, thought

* A drink made by an infusion of maize; the grain is first steeped in water, and then reduced to powder, after which it is boiled in the water wherein it was infused.

fit to reserve some moments, wherein even we may be punished with impunity. The impious old man was vigilant to improve the time, in which he perceived sleep had taken possession of all my senses. He took up a little piece of earth, and after he had spit on it, laid it on my head; when he had done this, he pronounced some words, and changed me into a bird: but, not satisfied with this transformation, which could only last till I awaked, he inclosed me in a cage, and on the door fastened an enchanted lock, on which the name of the great Rimac was written, a name too tremendous for us to violate: after all this, he buried me alive in the cave from whence you delivered me. He then forbid his son, who is the young man you there behold, to let any one come into the cave; for, as he had no power to deprive me of my voice, he was apprehensive lest I should prevail on some person to restore me to liberty: but all his precautions were vain; the keeper to whose care you was confided, had drank immoderately, and forgot the orders he received; and therefore, without foreseeing the dangerous consequence, he shut you up in the cavern where I was buried. It is needless to acquaint you with the rest, because you know the particulars as well as myself.

It should seem then, replied I, that this wretched old man is the father of my brother's murderer, and this young man the murderer himself.

himself. You are in the right, said the Laica. Let them be treated, continued I, as they deserve. I once intended to intercede for them; but their crimes are so aggravated, that they neither merit pardon or compassion. And I now abandon them to all the severity of your vengeance. Upon which the Laica turning her eyes on my brother and me, You shall both be spectators, said she, of the punishment to which I now will doom them.

At these words Larou took us by the hand, and then stamped with her foot; the earth opened at that instant, and we sunk by degrees into a gloomy abyfs, and were followed by the two wretches. At last we found ourselves in a vast cavern, light enough however to give us a view of the objects it contained. In a moment a giant fifty cubits high presented himself before us, and asked the Laica what commands she had for him to accomplish: Detestable creature, said she, is this the condition in which 'tis thy duty to appear in my presence? She said no more, and the haughty figure of the trembling monster shrunk to the form of an hideous dwarf, whose stature was only two cubits in height. I am satisfied with thy submission, said the Laica; take this scourge, and give these two wretches a hundred lashes every day.

Illustrious Laica, replied the dwarf, you shall be obeyed, as rigorous as the injunction may appear. Be silent thou presumptuous wretch,

interrupted Larou, it ill becomes thee to give thy sentiments of my commands! At the conclusion of these words she took my brother and me by the hand a second time, and we insensibly ascended from the bottom of the cavern to the top, after which the earth closed over it.

We are now avenged, said the Laica, on your enemies and mine, who sustain the punishment due to their demerits. Let us think on them no more, but rather consider how I shall testify my gratitude to you. This is now my only passion; but at present it is proper for us to return to my cavern; we shall find it more commodious than this place: let each of you then place one of your hands on my shoulder.

We had scarce complied with her directions, when we found ourselves in a large subterranean apartment, paved with solid stone as white as snow. A profusion of gold and silver adorned the roof, which seemed to be formed out of one turquoise stone. The beds and tables corresponded with the splendour of the building, and were fashioned in so peculiar a manner, that I am certain I never beheld any thing which resembled what then I saw. I could not forbear acquainting my brother with my surprise; and he likewise assured me that he was lost in admiration.

Larou, who heard our conversation, addressed herself to us in this manner; I am extremely pleased that you are not dissatisfied with

with the place of my residence; and then directing her discourse to me, My dear Pahama, said she, you are my kind preserver, and have it this day in your power to be master of all you behold. I wish I were amiable enough to induce you to unite your destiny with mine; but as you may possibly have devoted your heart to another, I have no intention to lay you under any constraint: let me, therefore, only know what you would have me do for your service.

She uttered these words with an air so tender and passionate, that I easily comprehended her meaning. Charming Larou, said I, it would be very rash in me to grow ambitious of a situation above my own. I am sprung from nothing, and am not ashamed at my lowly condition. The utmost I can presume to ask, is your permission to be admitted among the number of your servants; I should be but too happy if I were permitted to be near you, and could enjoy the blessing of beholding you: and I am persuaded my brother would make the same request, without the least hesitation, were he sure of succeeding.

Ah Pahama! interrupted Larou, I should make you but an ill return, did I grant you nothing more. I owe you the all I enjoy, and can offer you nothing else than my person, with every thing that depends on my power; and therefore I only desire to know, if you find yourself in a disposition to offer me your heart, and receive me for your spouse.

H O U R

H O U R XIX.

I was confounded at the honour she tendered me, and to find myself incapable of making a suitable return. I threw myself at her feet, and attempted to embrace her knees: but instead of complying with my desire, she raised me from the ground and offered me her bosom to kiss; after which taking me by the hand, My dear Pahama! said she, let us exchange our mutual vows to each other. Ah potent Laica! said I, it will be impossible for me ever to merit a state so happy: I am entirely yours without reserve, dispose of me as one of your slaves. 'Tis your heart, replied she, which I demand. Propitious Laica! answered I, it is yours for ever, and yours alone.

Since you are so determined, replied the beautiful Larou, I must now communicate to you a valuable accomplishment; upon which she embraced me and gently breathing on my lips, made me capable of exercising all her power. When this ceremony was over, Every circumstance is compleated, said she, and you are now my husband; all other formalities are unnecessary, and you shall all your life-time enjoy whatever I possess. I only except the power I have imparted to you, and the arm I restored you; for at my death they will both cease to be yours. This is a preordination impossible to be avoided, because you are not descended from the prophets.

When

When these ceremonials were finished the Laica said to me, You may now begin to exercise your new power. Command the table to be covered ; for not one of us has taken any refreshment this day. Alas ! answered I, with an air of astonishment, what shall I command ? when I don't see a mortal present to obey my orders.

Larou could not avoid smiling at my surprise, and told me, I had nothing more to do than to stamp with my foot. This I immediately performed ; and at the same instant two amiable young men, and as many virgins appeared, and desired me to acquaint them wherein they could be serviceable to me. We have occasion for some provisions, said I ; let them be brought immediately. The next moment a variety of dishes were served up, and I eat with a very good appetite. Larou did the same ; and my brother imitated our example perfectly well : I then called for a draught of cora. Ah my dear spouse ! cried the Laica, why do you desire cora ? You know what I have suffered by that fatal liquor, and I wish no more of it was to be found in all the world. I am of a different opinion, said I, and am not only glad there is such a liquor, but determine to drink it every day ; and if you have your reasons for disliking it, I have mine for prizing it exceedingly. It will always bring to my remembrance the source of my felicity. But however, continued I, let it not give you the

the least uneasiness; for I shall use it with so much moderation, as not to have any apprehensions of its effects. I have then, replied the Laica, nothing more to object: upon which I ordered two cups of cora to be brought in, one of which I presented to my brother, the other I drank myself, and we found it very delicious.

After supper, as our conversation turned on the events which had thus united us; I am not yet satisfied, said my wife, with the present effects of my gratitude, and am desirous they should even extend to your brother: I have a sister perfectly amiable, and am desirous to see her espoused to him. Ah madam! replied I, you never told me before that I had a sister-in-law: where does she reside? May I not have the pleasure of paying her my respects? You shall see her in a moment, said Larou.

At this, she stamped with her foot, and immediately four persons, different from those who served us at table, came to receive her commands. Let some fire be brought to me, said she; and as soon as the attendants had obeyed her, she threw a little dust into the flame: upon which, a smoke of a most fragrant scent rose from the fire, and diffused itself through all the apartmen; but as it gradually began to dissipate, it gave us an opportunity of beholding, in the middle of the chamber, a young lady of sixteen years of age, and exquisitely beautiful.

Approach us sister, said Larou, and behold your brother-in-law. His name is Pahama; to him I am indebted for my liberty, and thought I could not better testify my gratitude to him, than by chusing him for my consort. At these words I arose, and embraced my sister; and now, permit me, madam, said I, to present my brother to you. I need no other motive, replied she, than the near relation he bears to you and my sister, to behold him with pleasure: and then turning to Larou, My dear sister, said she, let me entreat you to inform me in what manner you lost your liberty, and how you recovered it again.

Larou immediately related the particulars of her transformation into a bird, and then acquainted her in what manner she was freed from her confinement; nor did she forget the punishments she had inflicted on her enemies.

When she had finished her relation, my brother cast himself at the feet of Rucma, for that was the name of my sister-in-law; and began to discover to her the impressions her charms had made on his heart. But Larou, perceiving Rucma's face covered with an amiable confusion; Sister, said she, you will infinitely oblige me, if you consent to espouse my brother-in-law; I destined him for your husband the moment I received my liberty from his brother; and I believe you will not be dissatisfied with my choice. Larou, replied Rucma, you are sensible I am always conformable

formable to your desires ; and if your brother-in-law can promise to love me without the least inconstancy as long as he lives, I am willing to receive him for my husband.

My brother and Rucma, having on this occasion said a thousand tender things, at last promised in our presence, eternal fidelity to each other. After which they were married; and Larou imparted her power to them both, by lightly breathing on their lips.

We all lived in perfect union several years ; and this union was the source of all our happiness : for my part, I looked upon it as the greatest blessing the gods had to bestow. Larou instructed us in the rules necessary to be observed in the exercise of our profession. I had several children during this period, but my brother had not any.

This disaster happened to him accidentally. The first night of his nuptials, he committed a mistake, that proved very injurious to him : he was extremely thirsty, and rose to drink the juice of a cocoa, he had seen on a table in the evening ; but instead of finding a real cocoa, he took a shell of that fruit, in which was a liquor destructive to generation : after which, he returned to bed, without perceiving the mistake, though he found himself much changed from what he was before.

In a few years my brother lost all patience, and enquired of Larou the reason why he had no children. Is this misfortune, said he, to

be imputed to me or my wife? Since you are so desirous to know the cause, replied Larou, the impediment proceeds from yourself, and I was unwilling to mention it to you before, lest I should afflict you. The first night of your espousals, you rose to quench your thirst with the juice of a cocoa, and the liquor you then drank, incapacitated you from having any posterity. I was acquainted with this particular by your wife, who, when I enquired if she knew any thing of a liquor I had poured into the shell of a cocoa, told me you had drank it that night.

But is there no possibility, replied my brother, of restoring me to my former condition? None that I have any knowledge of, said the Laica; and the best advice I can give you, is to comfort yourself under your misfortune. As to the rest, continued she, the calamity is not so great as you may imagine; for if it deprives you and your spouse of the opportunity of beholding yourselves revive in your offspring, it likewise preserves you from many vexations and inquietudes: and perhaps there is not one father living, who can say he never once received any dissatisfaction from his children.

This discourse, instead of calming my brother's uneasiness, rendered it more insupportable. However, he dissembled the displeasure he received from what he had heard, and we still lived in a seeming harmony: but Larou was not deceived; neither did she conceal from

me her secret preface of the calamity that threatened us. I am extremely apprehensive, would she frequently say to me, that your brother has some evil intentions against you. I, to dissuade her from entertaining such a suspicion, represented to her, that if all she had done for him should be insufficient to re-establish him in his right mind, yet her power was capable of protecting us from his resentment. The most inconsiderable enemies, said she, are always to be feared: your brother considers me as the author of his misfortune, and will avenge himself on me, should he ever find a favourable opportunity. Every time I see him, he looks at me with a forbidden air, and never speaks to me without the greatest disorder: from all which, I am persuaded he intends to gratify his revenge, and I am to expect something fatal from him.

In reality, the reflections my brother made on this disagreeable condition, cast him into a deep and gloomy melancholy, and soon after, into a kind of desperation. In vain did his spouse, as well as Larou and myself, endeavour to divert him; nothing was capable of entertaining him. My wife offered, though ineffectually, to recompense him by a number of advantages, for the accident he had sustained; he was attentive to nothing but despair: he grew disgusted at our presence, and even the sight of his wife became insupportable to him: he seemed to be only fond of solitude, and frequently wandered so far in woods and forests,

forests, that we did not see him for several moons. At last, the malignity of his discontent prompted him to the blackest design the heart of man could possibly form, and chance presented him with an opportunity of accomplishing it.

H O U R XX.

One of the most delightful days last summer, my wife and I walked out of our cavern to enjoy the verdure of the adjoining fields; and, towards noon, wandered insensibly to the bank of a little rill, half a league from our habitation: the air around us glowed with excessive heat; but the murmuring flow of the stream, and the refreshing shadows which a grove of lofty trees shed over the green turf, invited us to repose ourselves in that delicious solitude: in a little time, a gentle slumber stole upon us; but, ah! how fatal did it prove to us both! No sooner did I awake, but I beheld my dear and lovely Larou dead by my side, and pierced by a dagger in twelve places.

This moving spectacle affected me with all the agony of sorrow; but, as I cast my eyes round, to discover if possible the murderer, I saw my brother at a distance, in a very precipitate flight: the traitor had been so infatuated by revenge, that he forgot to draw his dagger out of my wife's breast; I seized the weapon with a heart full of indignation, and pursued

performed the barbarian with all the agility I was able to exert; in a few moments I overtook him, and cried aloud, Wretch, most perfidious and inhuman! no longer shalt thou elude the vengeance due to thy crime! At the same instant I raised my arm, and plunged the dagger into his bosom; and so effectual was the stab, that it laid him dead at my feet: when I had thus accomplished my revenge, I left his carcass a prey to the fowls of the air, and returned to the body of my beloved Larou: I washed the dear remains with my tears, I kissed her a thousand times; but, as I was endeavouring to raise her on my shoulders, I perceived I was once more deprived of my arm: however, I found means to convey the precious burden to our cavern.

My sister Rucma was neither touched with surprise nor horror at my melancholy tidings, and I interpreted this seeming insensibility into a bad omen; I even suspected she had been an accomplice in the crime, and was that moment preparing to punish her; when the few words she uttered, entirely disarmed my rage. Alas! cried she, the gloomy disposition into which we saw your brother degenerated, for some moons past, ought to have presaged this misfortune to us both, and I must necessarily applaud you for the vengeance you have taken on his barbarity. Tho' this language made a great impression on my soul, I was yet abundantly more convinced of her innocence, when

I shewed her the dead body of her sister: she seemed struck with the agonies of death, the moment she beheld my dear Larou, pierced with a number of wounds, and covered with flowing blood.

The sorrowful Rucma and myself, bitterly lamented the death of my unfortunate wife; we continued night and day, riveted in a manner to the body, and enjoyed a secret satisfaction in the tears we shed over it; but as it began to putrify in the space of half a moon, we were obliged to deprive ourselves of the consolation of beholding it any more. My dear brother, said Rucma, the stench grows insupportable, and may cause some distemper to seize us: you are a father of children, and ought to preserve yourself for their sake; and, as they are very young, my cares and attendance may be useful to them; if you will therefore be persuaded by me, we will commit the body of Larou to the earth, for we have no need of her presence to perpetuate her in our remembrance.

I approved of Rucma's proposal; after which we dug a grave in the middle of our cavern, and then buried the breathless remains; and as we now no longer had that object before our eyes, our tears began to cease by degrees; and at last a length of time, which usually assuages immoderate sorrows, began to make us capable of some consolation.

The

The affection Rucma discovered for my children, greatly contributed to the tranquillity I began to feel; I was charmed to see her devote all her cares to their education; and the sentiments of gratitude, with which her obliging conduct inspired me, began to soften into the tenderest passion: the graces nature had lavished in the features of Rucma, made a suitable impression on my heart, her beauty appeared to me altogether irresistible; and I at last determined to acquaint her, that notwithstanding all the reason I had to lament her sister's death, my life would be ever miserable, unless she would consent to succeed in Larou's place.

Rucma, who had no inducement to bewail my brother, consented to my desires without any reluctance; and the very day I acquainted her with my passion, we vowed eternal fidelity to each other, and she consented to be my wife; since which we have lived in constant harmony in Larou's cavern, which was the only possession she left us; for both Rucma and myself were entirely divested of the power she had formerly imparted to us: but this deprivation did not prevent us from passing our days in a sweet and pleasing tranquillity; and I was going according to my constant custom on the new moon, to perform my adorations in the temple of Rimac, but was detained here this morning.

Pahama having ended his relation, address-

ed himself to the giant: These, my lord, said he, are the adventures of my life, and if you should not think them engaging enough to induce you to restore me my liberty, I shall only intreat your permission to give my last farewell to my wife and children, and I will bind myself by a most solemn and inviolable oath, to ~~return~~ and surrender myself to your discretion, at the time you shall please to prescribe.

I can promise thee nothing as yet, replied the giant, for I must first hear the history of thy companions: Begin thine, Moracac, for that was the second traveller's name; Moracac at this command related his adventures in the following manner.

The HISTORY of the second Traveller.

MIGHTY prince of the giants! said the second traveller, I must acquaint you, that I am very different from the person I appear to be: my habit I confess may make me pass for a man of no consideration, and yet I derive my original by my father and mother, from the antient princes of Collas, whose ancestor was the Grand Marsh of Titicaca. The calamities of the times dispossessed our family of the throne, and compelled us to fix our residence in the territory of Pucaza: but though we lived a private and secluded life, we still preserved the noble temper of soul that comported with our extraction; we allied ourselves

selves with princes, and I would sooner die than marry a woman of a rank inferior to my own.

Birth, however, is not the only advantage we have a claim to; the amiable accomplishments of mind and body are hereditary to us; and the only infirmity for which we can be reproached, is an immoderate propensity to love, and this is the passion which has predominated in all the remarkable circumstances of my life: this indeed has plunged me into many misfortunes, and cost me the arm and leg of which you now see me destitute.

To begin then with my first amours I must acquaint you, that at the age of seventeen years I became passionately fond of a young lady, named Mullhhac, and a sister of the magician Mullia. One day her brother invited me to dine with him, which was the first time I ever beheld her, for she never quitted her habitation; her brother would not even permit her to appear till we had ended our collation, and began to drink cora. Besides this, he had the precaution to throw into my bowl a powder, which as he told me was good to strengthen the sight; but he should rather have said, to infect the eyes with fascination.

The moment I saw Mullhhac, I felt my soul penetrated by her charms, and this was occasioned by the powder which Mullia infused into the cora I drank; for in reality the most amorous of all mortals would have been

disgusted, and even seized with horror at the hideous appearance and deformity of this young woman; and therefore it is not to be wondered at, if my fondness for her made me the common talk and jest of all our neighbourhood: no one could comprehend how it was possible for me to love a person whose deformity grew into a proverb; for when any thing very disagreeable was intended to be mentioned, the usual expression was, it is as shocking as Mullhhac.

But none ridiculed my passion so much as my friends: Is it allowable then, said they, to doat on a monster, whose breast and back shoot out in huge bunches, and whose head is half as large as her body? Can any one be inflamed with the glances of a pair of eyes so exceedingly diminutive, that one would swear their sockets had been opened with the point of a thorn? Is it possible for a mouth to be alluring that is two spans wide; and are a jagged set of black teeth two inches long extremely engaging; or can the turn of a nose that bends like a hook, be so fatal to the beholder? Would not such an assemblage of features rather inspire the most amorous lover that ever sighed with horror and aversion?

You would shew your discretion, said I, much better by your silence than the falsehoods you so liberally utter. You have never seen the lady you misrepresent; and it is something very peculiar, that you should all agree to villify

so amiable a creature as Mullhhac: for my part I have had the happiness of beholding her, and know her person to be a profusion of charms: no head was ever formed with nicer proportions, or rose from the shoulders with greater delicacy: were her eyes larger they would be monstrous, and a smaller mouth would be a manifest imperfection. As to her nose, it is rounded in the middle of her face like the beamy moon in the center of the stars.

Some of those who were present when I drew this extraordinary picture could not forbear smiling; others shrugged up their shoulders, to intimate how much they pitied me; and the rest declared I was either infatuated, or had my eye-sight imposed upon by some enchantment. When I heard such discourse as this, I sometimes lost all patience, and grew exasperated at my best friends. At other times I commanded my temper, and calmly deliberated on what I had heard. Is it possible, said I, that I can be abused in so gross a manner? No, continued I the next moment, I will never believe it, Mullhhac is still fresh in my memory, and I have seen and conversed with her frequently, and instead of being a monster, she is a real miracle of nature; and 'tis jealousy alone which induces my friends to degrade her with so much injustice.

Filled with this persuasion I determined not to undeceive them, or perplex myself for the future at any thing they could say. I continued

nued my assiduities to my mistress, and she justly merited that title; for her manner of receiving me, and the soft language of her eyes, made me sensible I was not indifferent to her: but we both had the experience, that love sometimes renders its votaries timorous and irresolute; for in reality we durst not impart our mutual sentiments to each other. Tho' we had daily interviews, it was impossible for us to pronounce these important words, I adore you. Our eyes were the only expositors of our hearts. But it must be confessed, the progress of a lover in such circumstances is very inconsiderable.

H O U R XXI.

I at last armed myself with resolution, and one day after I had drank several bowls of cora, I became wonderfully undaunted, and resolved to disclose my passion without farther hesitation. What have I to be apprehensive of, said I to myself? At the worst I can but be rejected; and in that case I shall have a number of companions in my misfortune, which will be some consolation to me. How many lovers whose first declarations have been disregarded, and to whom the fair one has refused the least amorous freedom with the utmost severity, have yet by their perseverance acquired the art to please? A young lady repulses her admirer when he declares his passion, and should he

be inclinable to take some particular liberties, she rages at his presumption, and sometimes proceeds to greater extremities; but if he throws himself at her feet she then pardons an offence, which, had it been committed, would not have much displeased her; and thus at last he finds himself in possession of his utmost wish. I have one circumstance indeed very much to my satisfaction, and that is a certainty of finding no rival in my way. The divine Mullhac has no lovers but myself, and is a goddess who receives no adoration because she is altogether unknown.

When I had fortified myself with these reflections, I immediately visited my mistress, and found her alone in a little cot, at the end of a meadow; and the attitude in which she appeared, was sufficient to inflame insensibility itself. She had that moment rose out of the bath, divested of all her attire. My eyes had full liberty to examine the amiable turn of her body, and I was convinced, that all the charms I had till then beheld, were the least part of her attractions: nothing could be more alluring than this assemblage of graces. Ah, Mullhac! cried I, in transport, what a misfortune is it, that the charms I now survey, are not unfolded to the view of all mankind! Your adorers would then be as numerous as those who worship the great Rimac.

Whilst I was indulging my passion in this language, Mullhac threw a cincture around her

her waist, and veiled innumerable beauties, over which my eyes had so delightfully wandered. I expressed a dissatisfaction at that proceeding; What has my charmer done, said I? and why do you conceal from me the treasure I gazed on with so much joy? Why did you disclose to me, what you now withdraw from my view? It is not on your account, said she, that I have acted in this manner: decency obliges me to the caution I have used, lest any one should surprise us, and relate the affair to my disadvantage; and as to the compliment you made me, I would have you persuaded, I am not ambitious of so many votaries as adore the great Rimac: but, at the same time, I must acknowledge, that I should not be dissatisfied to find myself agreeable to some amiable man: but our youth, at present, seem to be infatuated with deformity and old age; for these alone affect their hearts with tender impressions, and though nature has perhaps favoured me with a person not inferior to that of any other mortal, I have yet seen eighteen years, without being assured by any one of your sex, that I appeared amiable in his eyes. I am convinced, therefore, that I must wait till the proper time arrives; and perhaps I may have, as well as others, a tribute of sighs paid to me in my old age.

I perceive, said I, you are not in a disposition to reject a lover, did he present his addresses to you. I assure you, replied she, I would

not disregard the opportunity ; but I lose all patience, when I see any agreeable youth tendering his affection to a wrinkled hag, and lavishing at her feet, all that incense of love I so justly think my due. Is it possible for me to behold such inconsistent practices with any moderation ?

This confession was pretty free and undisguised : but we pardon all things in the person we love ; and as I was naturally fond of frankness in expression, I was charmed with the same in my mistress. I went out of the cot, and assured her, I would soon afford her the satisfaction she desired. Accordingly I returned in a few moments, and entertained her with the following discourse, which I had premeditated in the interval of time I took to make my declaration of love.

Charming master-piece of nature, said I, the first moment I beheld you, my soul was captivated with your beauty ; and the more I have conversed with you, the stronger are the impressions you have made in my heart ; but you never enchanted me so much, as when you gave me your permission to acquaint you with my passion : no one of your sex ever warmed a breast with such impatient desires, as those with which you have this day inspired me ; and my happiness would deservedly be the subject of envy, would you condescend to accept of a heart, you have entirely subjected by your charms.

I had scarce finished my fine speech, when Mullhhac, in a transport of joy, wound her arms about me, and favoured me with a tender embrace. How much am I obliged to you, said she, for presenting me with a lover? You have raised me to the height of all my wishes. This confession not a little emboldened me, and I was preparing to return the kiss she gave me: but the moment I approached my lips to her mouth, 'Tis well, said she, and I will once in my life enjoy the pleasure of treating a lover ill. Take this present, continued she, and at the same time gave me a box on the ear with all her might: these are gifts, said she, not to be despised when I offer them.

So extraordinary a caress, threw me into some confusion; but as this was not what she desired, she embraced me a second time with all imaginable freedom, and made it impossible for me to continue my resentment. We then gave each other mutual testimonies of the sincerity and excess of our passion; and I knew not how far we might have proceeded, had not Mullia arrived at that instant. He was a young man, about thirty years of age, robust, and well made, but of a gigantic stature: he was five cubits high; and one of those magicians, who never delighted in actions of benevolence to mankind.

He was convinced, by the emotions he saw in our looks, that his sister and I were far from being enemies; and therefore thought he had

a proper opportunity to compel me to espouse her. However, for the present he concealed his intentions, and resolved first, to be informed by Mullhhac, upon what terms we had been proceeding with each other. He contented himself for that time, with assuming a serious air, and giving me to understand, that he did not expect to find his sister in such good company; however, he declared, that he was well persuaded that nothing had passed between us inconsistent with decency. This is not the country of the Collas, continued he, where young virgins are permitted to prostitute themselves to all comers before marriage, and where the most abandoned are generally sooner wedded than the rest.

I easily comprehended by this discourse, that Mullia believed I had an inclination to espouse his sister, and would not consent that I should visit her on any other terms: but, as engaging as Mullhhac appeared to me, I had not the least intention to marry a woman whose rank was so inferior to mine; and therefore I made no reply, but immediately rose in order to retire from the presence of Mullia; in which, at that time, I had very little satisfaction.

I was no way deceived in my conjecture; for the moment I was gone, he ordered his sister to acquaint him with all the particulars that had passed between us. She informed him I had paid her a visit, and declared I passionately loved her; to which she added, that

that my person and address were very agreeable to her. Mullia, at this confession, asked her if I had discovered any inclination to espouse her; but when he heard I had not explained myself on that subject, he appeared extremely dissatisfied. It is greatly to be feared, said she, that the love Moracac professes for you, will be soon abated by enjoyment; and therefore be sure at his next visit, to bring him to a clear explanation of his designs: and should his answer not be agreeable to my wish, I shall interest myself further in the affair.

I passed two days without seeing the beautiful Mullhhac; for as I knew her brother's disposition, I drew an ill presage from the serious air with which he spoke to us at our last interview: but for all this, absence added new impatience to my desires, and I resolved to gratify them at the expence of any event that might happen. With this intention I went to visit her, and found her once more alone, in the same cot where I had seen her three days before; and I approached her with all the transports of a passionate lover.

Our conversation added new warmth to our mutual flames, and tempted me to greater liberties than any in which I had yet indulged my inclinations. I even imagined myself in possession of that precious moment which is the object of every lover's wish, when Mullhhac assuming another tone, said to me with a commanding air, Hear me, Moracac, for I have

some-

something to impart to you; upon which she repeated all her past conversation with her brother: What you have now heard, continued she, only relates to Mullia, who is intent on our marriage; as to my particular, I am no longer in a condition to forbear loving you; and if you are desirous I should continue in that disposition, and are sincere in your profession of tenderness for me, I shall dispose myself to be favourable to all your wishes.

When she found I had no inclination to make a reply, Is it possible, said she, that you already love me no more! Me, I say, who adore you to distraction! These tender expressions were accompanied with tears, and I could not behold them flowing down those lovely cheeks without joining with her in her affliction. I wept in my turn notwithstanding all my endeavours to the contrary: we continued some moments in this condition, without the power of uttering a word; and it was she who at last broke the moving silence. No, said she, folding her arms round my neck, though I should be so unhappy as to be the object of your aversion, I will never cease to love you whilst I live.

I was confounded at what she had told me, and especially the threats of Mullia, and was in no condition to make her any reply; I could only acquaint her by my tears and languishing looks, that I was far from being insensible of her tenderness: but her new caresses restored me

me the faculty of speech. Charming Mullhac, said I, I flatter myself you are persuaded of the sincerity of my passion, as I am equally convinced of your reciprocal love for me : command me whatever you please, and I shall obey you with a perfect resignation to your desires. Place me in the number of your slaves, and you shall find I will hesitate at nothing to oblige you ; but do not require me to renounce the advantage I derive from my birth, since it is the only circumstance that may one day recal me to the throne of my fathers.

H O U R XXII.

At these words I clasped Mullhac in my arms, and at the same moment the bed on which we were seated sunk down into the earth, and we at the same time descended with great rapidity into a dungeon, that was only illuminated by a single lamp. The first object presented to our view was the formidable Mullia : he held a large scourge in his hand, and vengeance gloomed on his brow. 'Tis well, said he, with a dreadful voice, and shall we now celebrate the espousals ?

As we made him no reply, I perceive, said he, you treat me with contempt ; but I swear, that whosoever of you two shall refuse to vow fidelity to the other, the same shall this moment be sensible what this arm can accomplish.

Mullia

Mullia then demanded of his sister, if she had an inclination to receive me for he husband ; to which she immediately answered, I am sincerely desirous he should this day be my spouse ; and if he will promise constancy to me, he shall have the same assurance on my part. Are you then, said he, with his eyes fixed upon me, in the same disposition ? I was willing to excuse myself, by repeating the promise I made to my father, to espouse one of my sisters. I will hear no more, interrupted he : at which he immediately stripped me of the habit I wore ; he then bound me to a huge stone, and raising his scourge aloft, Before I begin to chastise thee as thou deservest, said he, for abusing my sister, inform me once more of thy intentions with respect to the marriage I have proposed. I have not abused thy sister, said I ; she appeared lovely in my eyes, and I have acquainted her with the fond affection I bear her ; perhaps too I have not been displeasing to her ; our interviews have been agreeable to us both ; but we never transgressed the limits of decency : where is then my crime ?

These are the agreeable interviews, replied he, of which I complain ; and I now intend to punish thee for repeating them. You may act as you please, said I ; you are master of my person, but have no power over my mind, and I am incapable of conforming to your commands. 'Tis too much, replied Mullia ; and thou

thou intendest to insult me to my face: but I will be avenged on thy presumption. At these words he gave me fifty lashes round the arms, and I made the dungeon echo with my dismal cries; but was on the point of losing my reason, when I heard his sister laughing aloud all the time. The artful Mullhhac used that expedient, to persuade her brother she no longer loved me, since I had refused to espouse her.

When this piece of discipline was over, Mullia asked me, whether the treatment I received, had not caused some alteration in my mind. It has made a pretty strong impression on my body, said I, as you may see by the blood that flows all over me; but my mind is still impassive, and I am always the same.

This language, which I uttered with great resolution, convinced Mullia that he was no longer to expect any change in my disposition. This young man, said he, is extremely obstinate, but he is not acquitted by having only felt the force of my arm: and then turning to me, It shall never be said, continued he, that thou canst boast to have refused thy hand to my sister, and disobeyed me with impunity. Thou deservest to suffer the cruelest death I can inflict; but I will content myself with depriving thee of speech, and changing thee into a bird, or some four-footed animal: choose then immediately one of these transformations.

It

has
stron

It was to no purpose for me to implore Mullia's pardon, for he was not only exasperated to the highest degree, but was likewise naturally inclined to malignant actions: so that it was impossible for me to soften his inhumanity. Since you are then determined, said I, to make me sensible of all the weight of your resentment, I submit to your barbarous commands; let me be changed into a bird: What kind of bird, replied Mullia? Into a humming bird *, replied I, for as I always delighted in music, perhaps my songs may solace my affliction, at least I shall have the consolation of pleasing mankind, and not being injurious or insignificant in the world.

Mullia made me no reply, but immediately unbound me, and violently seized the hair of my head; after which he sprung up with me through the vault of the cavern, that still continued open at the top. We traversed an immense space of air in a few moments, and at last descended on the land of Xauxa, which I was then altogether unacquainted with. We were in the midst of a thick wood, and Mullia taking out of a little bag the shell of a cocoa full of a small black grain, ground a few of these between his fingers, and then rubbing my forehead with the powder, he pronounced several words which I could not comprehend: and when all this ceremony was compleated he said

* The humming bird is not bigger than a large fly; has little shining wings, and its notes are exceedingly strong and melodious.

to me, Quit now the form of a man and assume the shape of a humming bird. The moment he had uttered these words he disappeared, and I remained alone changed into the little animal he mentioned.

I found my condition, at that time, exactly agreeable to the idea I had entertained of it before my transformation; for the loss of my natural form made no change in my inclinations. The moment I began to sing I was really delighted with my voice; my ears were charmed with the melody of the notes I uttered; and as I was conscious of my abilities, I exerted them with my utmost vigour.

I passed some days in this agreeable amusement, but at last began to be dissatisfied that I had none to sing to but myself; I grew disgusted with the solitude in which I resided, and became impatient for the company of mankind: in fine, I discontinued my singing and took a survey all around me, to discover some habitable country; I fled from place to place for the space of a moon; and at the end of that period imagined I heard a sound that resembled a human voice. Upon this I stopped in the midst of my career, to get a right information of what I had heard, and was presently sensible I had not been deceived in my conjecture, for I perfectly distinguished the accents of several men who were conversing together.

I must have a sight of these people, said I to myself, and then immediately flew to the place

place where the voice seemed to be uttered ; I hopped from tree to tree, and from spray to spray, till I had fixed myself in a situation where I could distinguish the objects I had a curiosity to discover : I then saw three men enjoying the cool breeze on the edge of a spring, whose streams were exceedingly clear, and flowed into a stone basin at a little distance from the source ; and from that basin, which was always full, they were diffused thro' the country in a winding rivulet, which together with the blooming fields and meadows, formed one of the most delightful prospects that could possibly be seen.

The beauty of this verdant place was sufficient to recompense me for the fatigues I sustained before I arrived there ; but it became still more engaging when I beheld the three men, and discovered by their conversation that the neighbouring parts were inhabited. Notwithstanding the change I had lately undergone in the form of my body, I still considered myself as having a much nearer relation to the species of mankind, than to that of birds.

I listened very attentively to the conversation of these men who sat by the spring ; but as it did not appear very important I began to sing, and the astonishment they discovered when they heard my notes, convinced me that birds of my class were not common in that country ; and indeed they kept a profound silence all the time I entertained them with my melody, which

lasted near two hours; I never till now heard so much harmony, said one of the men; I am enchanted, replied another, with that delightful pipe; the third declared he was equally struck with admiration, and all of them directed their eyes to the top of the tree to discover what figure I made, but it was impossible for them to see me; I was so small and at such a considerable distance from them, that I was entirely invisible to them; besides which, the least branch and leaf were sufficient to conceal me from their observation.

As it began to grow late, my three auditors at last retired; but the pleasure they had enjoyed induced them to return the next day, and I regaled them with the same entertainment. In short, they re-visited the spring many days successively, and brought several other persons with them to share the amusement.

I daily saw new faces at the fountain; and one morning in particular, six young ladies, exquisitely beautiful graced that solitude with their presence; but one of these amiable visitors greatly surpassed the rest in the majesty and graces of her person. The moment I beheld them seated on the soft turf that surrounded the spring, I began to entertain them with my strains, which I continued for the space of two hours, and by the attention with which they favoured me, I imagined the amusement was not disagreeable to them. For my own part, I enjoyed a secret satisfaction in my ability

lity to divert such a lovely audience; and my intention was to entertain them with a second regale, as soon as I had a little recovered my breath.

But I was not so expeditious as I designed, for the ladies, when I had discontinued my song, said to one another, let us not begone from this place as yet, perhaps the bird may entertain us with more of his harmony; and, in the mean time, it would be proper to improve the present opportunity; since none but we are here, let us therefore bathe ourselves in this basin.

The proposal being approved by all the company, they cast lots who should be their centinel, whilst the rest were bathing. The lady, to whom this province fell, retired to a little distance, that she might give her companions timely information in case any stranger should appear. The other five immediately undressed themselves, and presented to my view the most finished and amiable forms nature had ever created. Four of them, however, only raised my admiration: but the fifth, whose name was *Casana**, and was the lady who seemed to me so much superior to the rest in the attractions of her person, commanded all my attention; and by the tender sentiments

* This name signifies an object that makes the spectator faint, and was given to the lady, to intimate the impression her eyes made on the hearts of all who beheld her.

with which her charms affected my heart, made me sufficiently sensible that I was still in a condition to love an amiable person.

H O U R XXIII.

The charms of this beauteous virgin, and the impotency of my own desires, engaged all my meditations for a considerable time ; nor was I diverted from those attentions, till I heard Casana say to her companions, that the bathing of that day would be the most delightful they ever enjoyed, if I would but sing whilst they continued in the water. I needed no other motive to afford her the satisfaction she desired. I raised my voice, and varied it through all its modulations, whilst she and her fair companions were sporting in the limpid stream.

When they had quitted the bath, Casana resumed the conversation, and told her companions her satisfaction would be compleat, if she had but a view of the bird, whose voice had so enchanted her. The moment I knew her inclinations, I flew from the top of the tree, and perched on one of her snowy hands. The features of her face were irresistibly charming, and the delicate turn of her shape too exquisite to be represented in description ; I beheld her with eyes sparkling with love's softest beams, and endeavoured, by fluttering my wings, and a variety of other motions, to make her sensible of the impressions I derived from

from her beauty ; and that I might the better seem to pay homage to her charms, I began to tune my voice anew.

My officious caresses were as surprising to Casana, as the minuteness of my form ; and she was unable to comprehend, how a bird, so tame and gentle, could possibly be found in the wild recesses of a wood : she thought it a kind of prodigy, that a creature, who was almost imperceptible, should exert so strong and sprightly sounds ; and she could not forbear intimating her astonishment to her companions, who, for some time, were incapable of making her any reply. This bird, said one at last, must certainly belong to some divinity ; let us be careful not to injure him, or even leave him any longer in the wood, where he may be prejudiced by some accident that undoubtedly will be imputed to us. Negligence and inconsideration are punished by the gods as crimes ; but if we tenderly cherish the bird in reverence to them, we shall be rewarded with their blessings, for they never fail to repay the services rendered them by mortals.

It was some time before Casana made any reply, and, in that interval, she presented me with a small quantity of capia, which in that country is very excellent, and I eat it with a good appetite : she then dipped her finger in the spring, and offered me a drop of water, which I likewise drank. As amiable, said she, as I think this bird, I cannot prevail on my-

self to take him out of the wood; for, should he belong to any deity, I shall make myself criminal in depriving him of his liberty.

In consequence of this persuasion, Casana, when she rose from the green bank to return home, first gently kissed, and then placed me on the branch of a tree; but the moment she left me, I flew to her again, and settled on her delicious bosom. This extraordinary circumstance even chilled the blood in her veins; but as the impression she felt, proceeded more from admiration than fear, she was convinced, the moment I began to repeat my little caresses, that I had no intention to forsake her. Since he willingly surrenders himself to me, said she, I will carry him home, and carefully tend him; but he shall still enjoy his liberty, and fly where he pleases.

At the conclusion of this discourse, she returned to her father's habitation: he was not only one of the principal officers of the court, but had the honour to be related to the king, and his name was Rullaac. Soon after Casana's arrival, it was reported she had the bird, whose surprising melody had for some days past, raised the curiosity of all sorts of people, and caused a general admiration. The house of Rullaac was thronged with perpetual crowds on this occasion; and all those who had heard me at the spring, were impatient to view my form, and became exceedingly astonished when they saw me.

The

The king of Xauxa being informed of the adventure, had the same curiosity as his subjects, and gave orders for me to be brought into his presence; upon which Casana carried me to the palace, and presented me to his majesty. I lay constantly on the bosom of that beautiful virgin, and had infinitely more delight in that situation, than I could possibly have enjoyed on the throne of my ancestors. But the king's curiosity proved fatal to me; for as he was very aged, and had his sight greatly impaired, he took me between his fingers, to survey me with more attention. But as he turned me about, with less caution than was consistent with the delicacy of my texture, he tore off one of my legs. Casana was immediately sensible of my misfortunes by my cries. The tears flowed from her charming eyes, and it was impossible for her to command her affliction. She made no scruple to confess the pain this accident had created her, and after she had intreated the prince to return me into her hands, she re-placed me on her breast, where I soon forgot the greatest part of my torment.

As she was preparing to withdraw, her father, who had never seen me nor heard my voice, came into the king's apartment. He was surprised to find his daughter there, and much more to see me on her bosom. He broke out in a violent rage, and cried, Who is that stranger you are so fond of, and where

did you find him? It appears, by the manner in which you treat him, that you are upon very good terms together. I fear you have disposed of your person in his favour, without either mine or your mother's approbation.

Casana was so touched with these reproaches, that she trembled in every limb. My lord and father, said she, in the greatest emotion, I went this morning with five of my sisters to the fountain, and heard this little bird sing: when he had ended his harmony I was desirous of beholding his form; and at the same instant he flew to me and settled on my hand. His tractable and gentle behaviour charmed me; I then fed him and gave him water to drink: but one of my sisters happening to say, that he certainly belonged to some divinity, I thought it criminal to deprive him of liberty; and therefore placed him on a branch, and prepared to return home. But I had scarce proceeded two steps before the bird flew to me a second time, and rested upon me with so much satisfaction, as made me judge he intended to make me a present of himself; and I was afraid to drive him away, lest I should offend the deity to whom he may belong.

Casana when she had finished her discourse, removed me from her bosom, and her face was covered with those lovely blushes, that are the natural indications of modest purity. Such an artless evidence might have convinced Rul-laac of his daughter's innocence; instead of
which

which his anger grew more intemperate, and he raised his hand with an intention either to strike her or crush me with the blow; but very fortunately for me the king, whose disposition was naturally mild and compassionate, prevented the stroke, and blamed Rullaac exceedingly for his inconsiderate rage. How! said he, are you unable then to contain yourself in my presence? and have you lost all your reason? How ridiculous are you, to mistake the least bird that ever was seen for a man?

My lord, replied the father of Casana, you shall be convinced that my resentment is not unreasonable, and that I don't act without a just design. The bird your majesty now beholds, is a young man, descended from the antient kings of Colla; and he has been changed into this form by the magician Mullia, whose sister he refused to espouse. Since, therefore, I am so well acquainted with this pretended bird, can I with any patience see him lodged on my daughter's breast?

The king seemed greatly astonished at what he heard: What proof, said he, can you give me that your relation is true? Sire, replied Rullaac, though magic is far from being my usual profession, yet in my youthful days I was a considerable proficient in that science; I could make the earth tremble from its foundations, and cause the rivers to overflow their banks: I could remove mountains from one region to another, and had power to transform

a man into the shape of an animal, and make an animal assume the form of a man: but these abilities, which indeed are useful, when employed for the welfare of mankind, or to invalidate the malice of the generality of magicians who delight in the disorders of nature; these abilities, I say, are very dangerous, when they are employed to torment and persecute the children of men.

I perceive by your discourse, replied the king, that you can restore this young man to his primitive form. Yes, my lord, said Rullaac, I have that power; and if it be agreeable to your majesty's inclinations, I will compel the magician Mullia to appear immediately before you, and will order him to break the enchantment in your presence; his power is much more limited than mine, and he must necessarily obey my commands; should he dare to hesitate, I should have recourse to compulsion, and have that confidence in the virtue of my arms, that I may venture to promise myself a complete victory. But I am apt to believe he will not be presumptuous enough to contend with his superior.

H O U R XXIV.

Rullaac, at the conclusion of this discourse, immediately went to his own habitation, and in a few moments after appeared in the palace, arrayed in his enchanted armour; and caused
the

the king to be acquainted, that if he desired to be a spectator of what was then to be transacted, he might safely adjourn with all his officers to the great square of the palace.

When the assembly had ranged themselves round the square, Rullaac placed himself in the center, and drew a large circle with the point of his lance; and after several invocations, stamped on the earth with his foot and made it tremble all around him. The spectators were afraid, lest the convulsive motion should shake all the palace into ruins on their heads: a chilling tremour ran through every heart, and increased to a prodigious degree, when a black vapour was seen to rise out of the earth, and shroud Rullaac from the view of the assembly; they all concluded him to be lost: his friends were in the greatest agonies, and his daughter Casana made the air resound with her cries, and seemed resigned to despair: but amidst all these apprehensions the vapour dissipated in an instant, and disclosed the magician Mullia in a suppliant posture at the feet of Rullaac.

This spectacle, by degrees, re-animated the minds of the spectators; Great gods! cried they, grant that Rullaac may be triumphant: and the same moment they heard Mullia ask, why he was sent for to that place. Thou art commanded hither, said Rullaac, that thou mayest restore Moracac immediately to his natural form, and to take a solemn oath, never to injure him for the future; and if thou refusest.

fullest to obey me, prepare to experience the force of my arms.

He pronounced these words with a menacing tone, and the fire flashed from his eyes. Mullia, on the other hand, replied with a submissive air. O potent Rullaac! I have always acknowledged thee my superior, and am ready to obey whatever thou shalt enjoin me. I only demand thy obedience in two instances, said Rullaac; and when thou hast accomplished them, thou shalt have full liberty to depart.

Thou shalt have immediate satisfaction; replied Mullia; and, at the same time, he desired that the little bird might be brought to him, and Casana herself delivered it into his hands: after which he took a small piece of earth, and rubbed it on my head; saying to me, at the same time, "I command thee to resume that form of a man, in which thou didst appear before this transformation."

The moment he finished these words, I was restored to my natural shape, in every particular, except my leg which the king had broken, so that I still continued lame: and Mullia having promised never to molest me thereafter, Rullaac told him, he was at liberty to depart; upon which, he disappeared in the same manner he came, that is to say, a new vapour rose from the earth, and when it dispersed, Rullaac alone appeared in the circle.

• The

The satisfaction which the king expressed at my transformation, was counterbalanced by his concern to find himself the cause of my lameness; Canst thou not, said he to Rullaac, do something more for this stranger? I would willingly part with one of my limbs, to restore him his own, of which I have unhappily deprived him. My lord, replied Rullaac, your goodness shall not cost you so dear; order only some water to be brought me: they immediately presented some to him in a calabash, into which he dipped his hand, and sprinkled a few drops on my thigh, saying, at the same time, "Young man, if thou hast lost thy leg by an accident, be it restored to thee in the manner thou didst enjoy it formerly." The moment he finished those words, my leg was re-united to my thigh, and I walked as steadily and upright as ever.

These were the ceremonies employed to restore me to my primitive form: but, alas! I had been infinitely more happy had I remained all my life-time in the shape of a bird. But it is to no purpose now, to make reflections of this nature!

When I had rendered my acknowledgments to the king and Rullaac, for their goodness to me, I desired permission to testify to Casana, my sense of the obligation I had received from her, as she was the first cause of my good fortune. This permission was granted me, and I threw myself at the feet of that amiable lady.

I esteem it, said I, the happiest circumstance of my present condition, that I owe all I now enjoy, to the most lovely person in the world; and my felicity, adorable Casana, would be compleat, had you now the same disposition to love me, as you discovered when I was only a little bird. I shall never forget the innocent caresses, with which you favoured me in that happy state.

I was going to proceed in the same tone, when the princess who had now several points of decency to observe, appeared in the softest confusion, and with down cast eyes, made me this reply; I am persuaded, my lord, said she, your gratitude may now make those transports pardonable, which, on any other occasion, would be justly displeasing. Conduct yourself with more caution for the future, continued she, in a lower tone, here are some persons near us, who have it in charge to observe my behaviour; and therefore let us not give them any opportunity of making disagreeable remarks.

I received this advice as I ought, and improved it in the discreetest manner I could: I assumed a very reserved behaviour all the rest of the day, and very seldom approached Casana: but when I happened to be near her, I affected to entertain her with a conversation on different subjects, and I imagined she was under the inspection of some potent person, and consequently that it might be dangerous for her to
listen

listen to my vows, as well as for me to address them to her in public.

I was not deceived in my suspicion; for in a conversation I had two days after, with one of the women who were appointed to attend me, I learnt, that the king's eldest son was passionately in love with Casana, and intended to espouse her very soon: I then congratulated myself for conforming to the counsel I had received from the princess; but I had said too much before. There was a number of insolent and censorious persons among the king's officers, and indeed such characters are never wanting in courts. They had over-heard the declarations I made to Casana, and, with a malicious satisfaction acquainted the prince, who had been absent some time from court, that he had a rival in me. They even informed him of things I had never said, adding, that his own interest obliged him to return with all expedition, to dispute with me the conquest of Casana's heart.

The prince at these tidings, hastened to court like a lion, who, when he is pressed with hunger, rushes from his den to roam for food; his eyes darted gleams of fire, he roars, he flies like the wind, and never stops till he has launched upon his prey. Such did the prince seem, on his arrival at court. The moment he had paid his duty to the king his father, he enquired for the apartment which had been consigned, to me, and hastened thither with
the

the utmost impatience. After a few compliments which he made me, on the extraordinary events I had experienced, he proposed a walk to me before dinner.

I saw some emotions in his eyes, that made me sensible he enjoyed no great satisfaction; but I could not, with any manner of civility or politeness, decline the proposal he made me; and therefore I gave him to understand, I was ready to wait on him. Let each of us, said he, take a sabre, with a bow and arrows, perhaps we shall find some animal in the wood to employ our weapons on.

When we had armed ourselves as the prince desired, he led me through a portal which opened into a beautiful meadow near the palace: we had now passed to the further side of it, and were at the entrance into a thicket, when the prince addressed me in this manner: I find it very proper to stop in this place, which gives me a commodious opportunity to decide our difference. What difference, interrupted I, can I possibly have with you, my lord? I never saw you till this day, and if I have been so unfortunate as to offend you in any instance, I am disposed to give you all the satisfaction you can desire; I will accept of no satisfaction, replied the prince, but your death. You love Casana, and have made her a public declaration of your passion; this is a motive sufficient for my revenge; I am determined to destroy any rival who attempts to supplant me, and you shall

shall either deprive me of life, or I will leave you dead on the spot.

I was inflamed with resentment at such a declaration. The gods forbid, said I, that I should combat with the son of my benefactor; and I have too many obligations to the king your father, ever to suffer me to be guilty of so much ingratitude. It shall never be said, that I have violated the sanctuary which afforded me a refuge; and I had much rather convince you by my services, that I am so far from deserving your displeasure, that on the contrary, I merit your friendship. Believe me, my lord, it is much more honourable to gain a friend than vanquish an enemy.

In vain, said the prince, do you endeavour to sooth my resentment; I can never pardon your temerity, in attempting to rob me of Casana's heart. If my esteem, answered I, for that amiable lady, be my crime, you shall have no future cause to complain of my conduct, and I consent to renounce the satisfaction of seeing her any more. As soon as the ensuing morning appears, I will banish myself from your father's court and dominions, and surely you may account a sacrifice like this, to be a compleat victory. This will never satisfy me, replied the prince, and your offence merits a much severer chastisement. Your death alone can avenge me of the insolent liberties you have taken with Casana; I know with what

what pleasure you abused her innocence, when you was changed into a bird.

A jealousy so ill founded, made it impossible for me to keep my temper any longer in the bounds of moderation. How, said I, can you be jealous of a little fly, who happened to settle on the face or bosom of your mistress; if that be your disposition, you will have enemies enough to combat, and will never be able to destroy them entirely; for one that you can exterminate, you will see a thousand rise to life every day; and therefore, believe me, Sir, the best conduct you can resolve upon, is to keep your inordinate passions in subjection.

H O U R XXV.

My manner of representing the affair, did but irritate the prince to a higher degree. Wretch as thou art! said he, is it not enough that thou hast injured me in the most sensible part, but wilt thou likewise insult the delicacy of my passion; however, I am resolved to punish thee for thy presumption; prepare then to defend thyself, for I intend to treat thee without much ceremony; upon which he drew his sabre, and rushed upon me with all possible fury.

The remembrance I still retained of the obligations I had received from the father, no way obliged me to suffer myself to be slain by the son; I therefore unsheathed my sabre, and
threw

threw myself into a posture of defence. At first I only warded off his blows, and had no intention to wound my adversary; and indeed I flattered myself, that this instance of my regard for his safety would have calmed his rage, and made him acknowledge he had no cause to be so implacable against me: I likewise hoped we should be observed from the palace; and that those who should happen to see us, would have sufficient time to come and part us: but at last I found myself so briskly assaulted, that I was obliged to make my enemy for ever incapable of injuring me. The combat grew more desperate every moment, and we exchanged several dangerous blows. The blood flowed from our mutual wounds, and notwithstanding the large quantity we both lost, we were still fighting with the severest animosity, when several officers who were dispatched in all speed by the king to separate us, threw themselves between our weapons, and obliged us to return to the palace.

My wounds being not very dangerous, were healed in a few days by a balm which the physicians applied to them, and I soon recovered the vigour I had lost by the effusion of blood.

The prince's fate was very different, and he was reduced so low the fifth day, that they began to despair of his cure, and he himself grew sensible that his illness would prove mortal. With this persuasion he formed the most
crimi-

criminal design that ever entered into the imagination of man. He first informed himself of my condition, and when he heard I gradually began to recover, he seemed exceedingly dejected. Must I then die, said he, with the mortification of leaving a rival in felicity, at the expence of my life and honour! However, continued he, since I no more can hope to possess Casana, I resign her to his more prosperous pretensions. Upon which he desired to see this princess once more, to give her his last farewell, and inform her that he died for her sake.

Nothing but the king's authority could have prevailed on Casana to visit the prince. When she came into his presence, he addressed himself to her in this manner, the better to conceal his infamous design. Charming Casana, said he, I am not a little obliged to you for your complaisant proceeding towards me; 'tis undoubtedly the last satisfaction you can now procure me. I am sensible my final hour is come, and I am going to be join'd to my ancestors, in another state of being. The only reluctance I shall carry with me out of this world, is, that I must die before I could call you mine; but you are now at liberty to dispose of your heart in favour of him you love best.

Prince, replied Casana, this is no time for you to indulge such imaginations, think rather how to compose the emotions of your soul: your
con-

condition is not desperate as yet; your youth and vigorous constitution, with our sincere prayers, and the remedies that are offered you, ought to make you hope for a speedy re-establishment of your health. Ah! interrupted the prince, since you are so generous as to interest yourself in my preservation, drink one cup of cora to my recovery, and I will drink another to the continuance of your charms.

Casana could not deny the prince this satisfaction, and the attendants presented each of them with a cup of that liquor, which they immediately drank. Those who were present took notice that the princess trembled when she raised the cup to her lips, and her apprehensions were undoubtedly occasioned by a secret presage of the fate that attended her; and in reality, a moment after she had drank the mortal draught, the rosy colour faded in her face, and she was seized with violent convulsions. In vain was the assistance of all about her, and she expired in the arms of those who endeavoured to relieve her.

Whilst the attendants were employing all their cares to recover the princess, one of them saw the prince seized with the same symptoms in his bed; they ran to his assistance, but he had already breathed out his soul.

It is easy to judge there was poison infused into the liquor the prince and Casana had drank, and indeed nothing could be more true. The prince, not able to bear the thought
that

that his rival should enjoy that lady, was so inhuman as to mix a violent poison in the cora presented to her, by which means he was certain, that if he was not to possess Casana, at least she should make no other man happy.

I was afflicted beyond expression at this melancholy accident; I lamented the unhappy fate of the princess, and all the people bewailed the prince. The sorrow which affected the king on this occasion, threw him into a languishing illness, that brought him to the brink of the grave. At the end of one moon, when he began a little to recover, he ordered me to be conducted into his presence. Young stranger, said he, you are sensible what calamities I have suffered since your arrival in my dominions: my son is dead, one of my relations whom I intended for his spouse is now no more, and I myself beheld the gates of death: It is true, these misfortunes cannot justly be imputed to you, and it would be unrighteous to punish you for what you did not commit. All the world can testify the discretion with which you conducted yourself in your passion for Casana, and I myself beheld the repugnance with which you combated my son: every one must acknowledge, that nothing but the necessity of defending your own life induced you to oppose him; but tho' all these circumstances proclaim your innocence, it is equally true, that you are the cause of our misfortunes. Be gone then in peace; your presence in this country will

will but aggravate my sorrows, be gone then immediately and for ever.

I would willingly have made some reply in my justification, but he obliged me to be silent. Once more be gone, said he, I always had a sincere inclination to be hospitable to strangers, do not now constrain me to act contrary to my natural disposition.

These last words admitted of no reply : I immediately left the palace, and after I had travelled for the space of two days, found myself out of the dominions of the king of Xauxa. I only met with one remarkable adventure in my journey, and that was in the country of Abansay.

One day, when the heat proved insupportable, and I was extremely fatigued with travelling from morning to noon, I stopped at the edge of a wood that rose on my right hand. The place was intirely calculated to give passengers the enjoyment of the refreshing gales. A bubbling fountain spouted forth its limped waters, and a blooming circle of tall trees shot forth a profusion of branches impenetrable to the sun beams: these branches that almost bended to the earth, were loaded with inviting fruit, some of which I gathered and eat, and found their flavour most delicious. After which I stretched myself on the grass, and sunk into a pleasing slumber.

In a very few hours, my sleep was interrupted, and I found myself moved up and

down; these motions, tho' not at all violent, were sufficient to awake me, and I then perceived that four old women, entirely naked, had bound my arms with silver chains. All the efforts I could make to disengage myself were ineffectual, and I entreated them in vain to restore me to liberty. We have no intention to injure you, said they, and only desire you to follow us without reluctance; but if you refuse to comply, we shall find means to make you obey us, in spite of all your resistance.

The curiosity I had to know where this adventure would end, induced me to follow them without any farther expostulations. We walked above an hour thro' the wood, and at last found ourselves on the brink of a broad and deep trench. A draw-bridge was then let down to give us a free passage, and when we had crossed the trench, the bridge drew up of itself. We then came into a vast court, in the middle of which stood a large pavilion, whose entrance was guarded by two amiable women, as naked as my four conductors; but notwithstanding the indecent condition in which they appeared, an air of modesty, which commanded respect, was visible in their aspects, and I could not help taking notice that they smiled at my approach. O young stranger, said they, you are ignorant of the good fortune that awaits you. The great Rimac determines, you shall consent to be the author of the greatest happiness that can possibly attend you.

This

This language was a perfect riddle to me; but I was informed by two young women, that her mistress herself would acquaint me with my felicity. You have nothing more to do, continued they, than to give us your weapons, with the habit you wear, and to bathe yourself in this basin; I am very willing, said I, to bathe and surrender my arms, as you desire; I will likewise resign my apparel to you, but what other dress am I then to be clothed in? Every man has his particular custom, and I would not appear naked before any mortal; decency forbids me to be so abandoned.

You have reason, replied one of the women, to say every one has a peculiar custom: as to us, we cannot blush to appear as nature has formed us; for we are only guided by moderation and purity, and as reason tempers the warmest flow of our blood, we are only ashamed to manifest a depraved heart. This, in our opinion, is the most infamous and reproachful object that can possibly be seen; or rather, it is that which ought never to be found in a person of honour. We may add to this, that nakedness is so far from being an incentive to immoderate desires, that, on the contrary, it cools the wanton fervours of the mind; it fetters irregular passions, and gives a modest insensibility to innocence. In fine, when we are once habituated to this custom, what ever objects present themselves before us, the eye continues undisturbed, and the heart is never tainted with any tumultuous passion.

I discovered, in this kind of reasoning, some glimmerings of truth, which obliged me to submit. Since this is your custom, said I, and you compel me to conform to it, I shall dispose myself to imitate your example, and will no longer delay to appear in a condition that can never be indecent, since it is justified by your example. At this, they began to take away my weapons; after which, they eased me of my chains, and assisted me to divest myself of my apparel, which the four old women caught up and carried away.

H O U R XXVI.

In the mean time I threw myself into the basin, according to the directions I had received, and washed myself for some time; and when I came out of the water, the two young women, to whose care I was consigned, dried my body with linnen, white as the snow itself; and each of them folding one of her arms round mine, introduced me into the palace.

After we had passed through several apartments, they led me into a large hall, where the Laica Pacuncus then was: she was a young lady about twenty years of age, exquisitely beautiful, and her eyes sparkled with so much lustre, that I was hardly able to bear their radiant glances. She was seated on a throne of silver, over which was thrown the skin of a tyger, and at her left-hand I beheld a golden throne,

throne, covered with the spoils of a lion. Approach, young stranger, said she; the moment I appeared, unite your destiny with mine, and take possession of the throne I have decreed you. I am infinitely delighted to owe so amiable a husband to chance, and could not have succeeded better, tho' I had selected one from the flower of a whole nation.

I was so confounded at this adventure, and the advances I received from so charming a person, that I stood speechless before her. Pacuncus finding I made no reply, but seemed lost in a kind of extasy, told me, she was not surprised at my silence, for doubtless, said she, you are not accustomed to receive the first overtures from our sex: however, this is my practice, continued she, and you must accommodate yourself to it as well as you can; upon which, she offered me her hand in the most obliging manner. I then approached her, with an intention to throw myself at her feet: What do you mean to do, cried she? It is my duty to kiss your knees, at the same time she favoured me with a tender embrace, and obliged me to ascend the throne that was raised on her right hand.

I was hardly seated, before she resumed her discourse: You are now my husband, said she, and I may hereafter converse with you on the cause of your arrival in my dominions, tho' I think I am acquainted with every circumstance already; but at present, something of more

consequence requires our attention: give me your hand, and let us retire into the next apartment, where I will acquaint you with some particulars very necessary for you to know.

As my surprise was increased every moment by the extraordinary things I heard, I obeyed her without making any reply; she then conducted me into a chamber, the air of which was perfumed with odours so exquisitely fragrant, that they charmed me; nor was the eye regaled with less attractions than the smell.

The walls were adorned with a radiant profusion of rich metals and stones, ranged with admirable symmetry. A bed of gold covered with the skins of six tygers, was the only furniture in that apartment. Pacuncus laid herself on the bed, and invited me to place myself at her side, and when she had for some time beheld me with eyes, in which love had kindled his brightest flames, she directed her discourse to me in this manner.

It is now time, my dearest spouse, to inform you who I am, and what were my inducements to treat you in the manner you have experienced. My father was the chief prophet of the great Rimac, and I am the only fruit of his marriage-bed. At his death he made me the heiress of all his power, which consisted in an absolute command over all things, either on earth or in the waters; but tho' I am invested
with

with such an unlimited authority, I regulate all my actions by reason, and never exert my power but to prosper the virtuous and punish injustice. I give consolation to the unfortunate in their afflictions, and never fail to chastise the abandoned with due severity. Once in every moon I take a progress round the earth, and am careful wherever I come, to establish that order and tranquillity which magicians, by their capricious practices too frequently interrupt; the elements themselves obey my commands, and all nature appears tractable and submissive before me.

O great Rimac, cried she, in this part of her discourse, why is not my power as absolute over the mind! But alas! in that particular I am too sensible of my inability. Ah me! what distracting pangs have I suffered from perfidious men; I have been espoused to sixty-nine husbands, and had the mortification to find them all false and ungrateful. I was united to them successively by the most tender passion, but their inconstancy has for ever separated me from their arms. When I punished the last, whom I surprised in the embraces of one of my women, I took a solemn oath to marry the first man who should set a foot in my dominions, and bound myself by an inviolable vow, to punish him severely if he either refused to espouse me, or should prove false after he became the partner of my bed.

M 4.

For

You may now be sensible, continued she, what misfortunes you have escaped, by consenting to be my husband. I should have been compelled to make you repent of your refusal, and shall be under the same necessity if you ever falsify your vows of fidelity to me.

I was on the point of telling her, that I could not possibly comprehend how her conduct to me any way comported with her assertion, that all her actions were regulated by reason, but she did not allow me the opportunity. Have a regard to yourself, said she, for tho' I have not an absolute inspection into the heart, I can discover by the language of your eyes, that you are preparing to contradict me. I have already told you that you are my husband, and that ought to be sufficient to secure me your heart. You will pardon the little vehemence I discover, as it is the necessary consequence of the oath I have taken : I indeed was urged to it by a degree of desperation ; but it is not the less inviolable for that circumstance. All the excuses and impediments you can alledge will avail you nothing ; and if you fancy there is any injustice in my proceedings, you will easily be reconciled to it, when you consider that the attractions of my person, will amply recompense you for all you can possibly lose in any other instance. You have one infallible advantage to depend on, which is the certainty you may entertain, that I shall preserve to my death, all the graces I may now enjoy ; and I
must

must likewise acquaint you, that you will experience the same fondness in me which I now express, and the same inclination to please you.

I indeed was shocked at the first advances Pacuncus made me, and the constraint she laid me under of being united to her all my days, gave me some dissatisfaction; but the absolute air of her conversation, and the menaces she had recourse to, made me determine to comply with her expectations. Beauteous queen of the Laicas, said I, and at the same time kissed her hand; I am so far from disregarding the offers you make me, that I count them the greatest felicity I could possibly attain to, and could never hope to be so exquisitely blessed: I even acknowledge, that I found myself incapable of resisting those all-persuasive eyes; you are already the absolute mistress of my person, and, as you have compleated the conquest of my heart, your ascendant shall be as sovereign over my soul. Nothing now remains, but that I intreat you to inform me, in what manner I may best testify my gratitude for all your goodness.

I pronounced these last words with such a tone and air, as convinced Pacuncus, that either her charms or threatnings had gained the effect she desired. Dear lovely youth, said she, I want language to express how much you transport me, by the voluntary gift of your heart; I should have suffered infinite afflictions, had I found it necessary to gain it by my

authority ; but since I am so happy as to inspire you with tender sentiments in my favour, I surrender myself intirely to your pleasure, and solemnly swear you alone shall be the object of my softest love.

She accompanied these expressions with a tender embrace, that convinced me of the sincerity of her passion. Such a delicious caress would have enflamed the most insensible of all mortals, and I was preparing to return her endearment, when she resumed her discourse in this manner ; I have only one particular more to tell you, and then our nuptial supper shall be served up ; but let me intreat you to be very attentive to what you are going to hear : I expect when you tender me your heart, that you resign it to me without reserve ; should I once discover that you had treated me with the least infidelity, all my softest affection for you, will not prevent me from punishing you according to your demerit : your offence will cost you one of your limbs, and you will be driven with contempt from the palace : but should your love to me be at any time insufficient to cool your inclinations to other objects that may present themselves to your view, summon all your reason to your assistance at such a juncture, and let fear itself extinguish every criminal flame, that any future rival of mine may kindle in your bosom : let the consideration of your own interest regulate each inordinate desire, that may one day prove too tyrannical

nical to your welfare. Let me therefore recommend it to you, to think of owing all your happiness and repose to your fidelity alone.

Adorable Laica, said I, all the charms of the most amiable objects in the universe, shall never deprive you of my heart; and when I once have resigned it to you, no future competitor shall ever reclaim it. Remember well, this engagement, said Pacuncus, I can pardon all things but the contempt of my person, and the inconstancy of him who shares my bed: let the sad examples of others, teach you discretion; I have received many promises like yours, sixty-nine husbands have plighted their vows of fidelity to me, and not one, as yet, has been punctual any longer than the first moon of our espousals. I have hitherto seen none but perjured wretches, and I have punished them for their guilt, as I ought. I must indeed acknowledge, continued she with a smile, that I exposed their constancy to the severest trials, by leaving them in this palace with several young virgins, who were beautiful to perfection.

Charming Laica, interrupted I, as for my part, I can safely challenge you to expose me to what trials you please, being well assured you will always find me uniform to what I now profess; let me caution you once more, replied she, to be on your guard; a person may be swept away by a flood, in the very place where the day before he walked on dry land.

However, for the present, let us turn the conversation to some other subject: I have acquainted you with all the particulars necessary to the preservation of your good fortune, and said enough to restrain you within the limits of your duty, if you can act rationally; and now let us sit down to our nuptial banquet, which I believe will be very seasonable to you, for I am persuaded, you have not been entertained with much delicacy in your journey.

H O U R XXVII.

The day was now upon the close, and when we quitted the chamber, we found the other apartments finely illuminated by a vast number of lamps, which hung from the roof; but the hall where our collation was served up, appeared more resplendent than the brightest day in spring: the wall, as well as the pavement and roof, were covered with plates of silver, so artificially joined together, that they seemed to be one continued spread of that metal; and were so exquisitely polished, that they reflected every object like a mirror. From the wall were extended several large paws of bears, each of which grasped a lighted taper, which diffused a dazzling lustre, and never consumed. These paws were sixty-nine in number, a circumstance, that, in my opinion, had some mysterious meaning; but at that time I did not ask for any explanation, for my eyes

were

were surpris'd with other objects that engaged all my attention.

Pacuncus and myself were seated at the upper end of the hall, on two small thrones of silver, covered with skins exceedingly white and soft; and immediately seven young virgins divinely charming, made their appearance at the other end of the hall, and entertained us with a concert of the most melodious voices I had ever heard.

A few moments after, six other virgins beautiful as the blushes of the morning, and crowned with chaplets of perfuming flowers, appeared in the middle of the hall, and began to dance with an inimitable harmony of motion. My eyes, till then, had never been delighted with so lovely a view, and no time could be tedious to me, whilst I beheld the easy glide of their bodies, and the delicate softness of their steps, which perfectly accorded with the modulation of the instruments.

When the dance was ended the six virgins disappeared, and resigned their places to as many others, who placed before us a table covered with a surprising variety of excellent provisions; among which, the ynchic and cachucu, were not forgotten. But besides these dainties, which mortals esteem so exquisite, there was a vast number of others not inferior to the former, in the delicacy of their flavour, and the greatest part of which were entirely unknown to me. Pacuncus served me
with

with every kind, and made me acquainted with their particular names, whilst I expressed my commendation of them by my appetite, rather than my expressions; for my astonishment at what I both beheld and heard, made me incapable of uttering a word.

When we had finished our repast, the six virgins who placed the table before us, immediately carried it away, and the moment they disappeared, two other ladies entered the hall with a little table of silver, that supported a large vessel of gold, and two cups of the same metal; the vessel was filled with a red liquor of so admirable a flavour, that I cried out the instant I tasted it, this surely is the drink of the gods! At the same time I cast my eyes on Pacuncus, and saw her smile at my exclamation. This liquor, said she, has at last restored you to your speech; at which I immediately grew sensible of my incivility, and endeavoured to excuse the profound silence I had indulged till then. I am far from being offended, said she, with your attention to the feast with which I have entertained you; and am rather charmed with your silence, which I esteem a favourable presage to my love. I have observed with pleasure, that your taste and judgment are excellent; and from thence concluded your attachment to me, would be equally sincere and lasting. We afterwards discoursed together for some time, and the liquor contributed to enliven the conversation.

When

When we had drank as much as was agreeable to our inclinations, twelve beautiful virgins entered the hall dancing; each of them had a taper in her hand. Immediately after their arrival, they stopped, for a few moments, and then entertained us with the most surprising dance I ever saw, which they did not discontinue till we rose, in order to retire. They then ranged themselves in pairs, and in that order walked before us to the chamber where the nuptial-bed was prepared. It was the same apartment in which Pacuncus had instructed me in the rules I was to observe, in order to perpetuate my good fortune. The twelve virgins placed their tapers around the bed, four on each side, and four at the feet, after which they retired, and left us to our repose.

All the pleasures, which till then, had concurred to transport my senses, vanished that moment from my remembrance, and were succeeded by delights abundantly more enchanting. My attention was totally employed on that divine beauty, to whose possession I was so happily allotted. We repeated, in those soft moments, our protestations of mutual love; our souls were dissolved in raptures inexpressible, and grew intoxicated with joys too exquisite for imagination itself to paint. Several hours glided insensibly away in this scene of delight, before our eyes were closed in slumbers; but I was soon awaked, by two gentle kisses which Pacuncus imprinted on my lips. She was all
 spright-

sprightliness and vivacity, and charmed me to such a degree by her engaging disposition, that I have reason to believe our transports were mutual.

The day stole upon us amidst our endearments, and we rose to new feasts, diversified with dances and harmonious airs, where some amiable novelty was always intermixed. The succeeding days were passed in the same pleasures; but we sometimes quitted the palace and retired to verdant groves and cooling grotts, where innumerable delights presented themselves to our view, in all imaginable variety.

The time at last arrived when Pacuncus was to be separated from me, to re-visit the world; a fatal period to my repose! a period, wherein my constancy was to experience the strongest proof. She acquainted me, that she should be absent four days, and at the same assured me, she parted from me with regret: Believe me, said she, you are infinitely dearer to me than any of those who formerly espoused me, and I tremble lest I should be fated to lose you for ever. Were it in my power to guard you from the danger to which you will soon be abandoned, I would interpose with joy; but I am necessitated to prove the fidelity of the husband to whom I am to devote my heart, and it is on this condition alone, that I am to expect a child to inherit my power. All I can promise you is this; if you preserve your constancy to me untainted, during these four days of absence,

fence, I will be satisfied with this single trial, and will take such effectual methods as shall secure you for the future, from being liable to love any other object, or inspire any person but myself, with a passion for you : you shall then be in a compleat capacity to make our union perfect ; our inclinations shall be all harmonized by unanimity, and no accident shall interrupt our joys.

My lovely queen, said I, this language is altogether unnecessary, and even injurious to my virtue ; for you seem to suspect the sincerity of my love, since you can possibly doubt my fidelity. Ah ! my dearest Moracac, replied Pacuncus, I am persuaded you at present have an unfeigned affection for me, but who can be responsible to me for your future conduct. Those objects which have made no impression upon you when I was present, may rob me of your heart when I no longer behold you ; and that beauty which to day you may view with indifference, may to-morrow prove a fatal allurements. As to the rest you may believe me when I assure you, that all the regret and tender fears I have discovered, flow from no other motive than my fond desire to preserve you from danger.

Rest satisfied in my conduct, said I, and be persuaded you shall owe my inviolable fidelity, not to any apprehensions I have of punishment, but to my sincere inclinations to live happily with you all my days ; and I even
flatter

flatter myself, that when you return, you will condemn your injustice, in suspecting me capable of the least ingratitude.

After many mutual protestations of unchanging love, Pacuncus ascended her chariot, drawn by twelve snow-white partridges, three and three in a rank. We then gave each other the last farewell, and the birds, accustomed to the signal, sprung into the air with incredible swiftness, and drew the chariot to such a height, as made it soon disappear from my view.

I immediately, upon the Laica's departure, recollected every particular of her discourse. I am very sensible, said I, to myself, Pacuncus has no power to read the secrets of hearts, for if she had, she would certainly have known with what sincerity I love her; and indeed the happy situation wherein she has placed me, makes it impossible for me to indulge a passion for any lady but herself. Her suspicions, continued I, are unjust; and in order to convince her they were so, her attendants shall now regale me with the most delicious banquets they can prepare, and shall entertain my eyes with all the amiable allurements they can disclose; besides, added I, should I find my heart ever so little intersted in favour of any particular object, it will be easy for me, by banishing that object from my presence, and calling up the idea of Pacuncus in my soul, to preserve myself from all possibility of danger.

I made these reflections in the court where I went to bid the Laica farewell, and see her depart; and I was employed in the same meditations when I entered the palace, but they all vanished from my mind, when I found a general solitude reign through all the apartments. I wandered from chamber to chamber, without discovering one human form; this, said I, will never enable me to execute the project I have been forming: where are then the dangerous ensnarements with which I was threatned? In vain did I raise my voice to allure some of the young virgins, with whose names I was unacquainted: and when I received no answer, Surely, said I, Pacuncus has commanded all her ladies to attend her in her progress.

H O U R XXVIII.

As I could not prevail on myself to believe she had any intention to leave me alone in the palace, certainly, said I, it is but reasonable that the husband of the queen of the Laicas should have some share of her power. Upon which I resolved to make the experiment, and accordingly stamped on the earth with my foot: at the same instant an old woman appeared before me, to know what commands I had for her to execute.

I was startled at an object so very disagreeable, and continued silent for some moments; but after I had recovered myself from my surprise,

I ask'd her if she was the only domestic the Laica had left to attend me? My lord, said she, if for your greater security you will please to content yourself with my services, you shall be supplied with all you desire, during the absence of my mistress; I have orders to obey you, and am impowered to give you satisfaction in every particular.

If that be the case, answered I, cause some of the young ladies who usually attend in this palace to come here. Ah! my lord! interrupted she, what is this you desire! Let me intreat you to entertain no such thought, and may the gods forbid that my ministration should lead you to the edge of a precipice. Our young virgins, in the absence of Pacuncus, entirely devote themselves to pleasure, and are now giving a loose to all their sprightliness and gaiety. Should you therefore see them at a time like this, they would make such impressions on your heart, as would be impossible for you to resist.

What I heard did but the more excite my curiosity; My good mother, said I, you must certainly be ignorant how tenderly I love the queen your mistress, otherwise you would never entertain those suspicions: let me therefore desire you to comply with my orders. My lord, replied she, I cannot possibly obey you in this instance; but if you are absolutely determined to see my young companions, you may, as you are master of this palace, command

mand them yourself to appear before you; if you only stamp with your foot, you will immediately see them fly to receive your orders; but let me intreat you once more to be apprehensive, lest those charming objects should infuse a fatal poison into your soul; a single expression from the most inconsiderable among them, will be sufficient to captivate your heart; one artful glance will dazzle all the reasons you can summon to your assistance; and each soft and amiable perfection you discover, will prove mortal to your repose.

I presumed so much on my passion for Pacuncus, that I despised all the counsels I received: Be gone, said I, to the old woman, you certainly doat, and fancy you are a talking to a child; but since I can have other attendants, I command you to appear no more in my presence.

I had no sooner uttered these words, but I stamped with my foot, and at the same instant two young women, who resembled in their air and shape those who had formerly received me at the palace gate, succeeded in the place of the old woman, who had already disappeared from my view: but this appearance did not suffice for my purpose, the unaffected modesty, which blushes in their faces, was very improper to dispel the cares and melancholy musings that were forming in my soul. When they desired to know my commands, I told them, it was my intention that all the domestics;
Pacun-

Pacuncus had left in the palace, should pass in review before me, and that after I had seen them, they should have liberty to retire. My lord, replied they, we shall obey your orders, tho' with much reluctance; but permit us to acquaint you, that you are forming a resolution which may prove as fatal to you as it has been to many others. Let a prudent fear, Sir, urge you to shun the danger of being seduced by the deluding beauty of our young damsels. You will find their conversation and assiduities extremely engaging; but those pleasures, which, in their first enjoyment, may have all the sweets of honey, will, in their consequence, prove as bitter to you as gall. This advice was certainly very discreet, but I was offended at a lecture of morality so opposite to the gratification I desired. Be silent, said I, and let me hear no more of your unseasonable harangues; I know how I ought to act, and have no need of your directions; be gone therefore, immediately, for I can dispense with your attendance.

At this command the two young women disappeared, without replying, and I again stamped on the ground; upon which, two more virgins, crowned with flowers, came into my chamber, and with a smiling air, desired to be acquainted with my commands. I have an inclination to see you, said I, and you shall be my companions till supper. They accepted the invitation with pleasure, and for my own particular, I as yet had no cause to repent of my

my curiosity. They were of a gay disposition, and agreeably amused me for some hours; and tho' they frequently diverted me with lively turns of wit, I still found myself in full possession of my liberty.

When the hour for supper at last came on, I ordered them to regale me with the most elegant feast they could possibly contrive, and directed them to bring before me their fairest companions; I took notice by their air, they were not at all dissatisfied with that command, and they assured me they would endeavour to procure me the satisfaction I desired; upon which they immediately withdrew, and a few moments after, returned to conduct me to the hall, where the feast was to be served up.

I followed them with a very good will, and when I came into the hall, beheld three parties of young ladies, who had formed themselves into as many chorus's: they all began a concert, and acquitted themselves with the utmost perfection. In the mean time, several young damsels placed before me a table covered with a plentiful variety of excellent provisions; but, as I began to be much accustomed to dainties, they were the least of my satisfactions: the objects I had before me, attracted all my attention, and it was impossible for me to determine whether the voices, the instruments, or the various graces of the amiable persons who stood before me, were most worthy of admiration.

I surveyed all those wonders with a secret transport, when on a sudden, I beheld the most lovely object nature perhaps ever formed; it was a young lady about sixteen years of age, exquisitely shaped, and her skin whiter than the purest snow. Her radiant eyes sparkled like stars, her complexion glowed with a rosy bloom, and love's softest smiles play'd on the vermillion of her lips; her eye-brows were delicately arched like two rainbows, and her head was shaded with a flow of jetty hair that waved in ringlets to her slender waist: in a word, the whole assemblage of her charms was improved by that air of sprightliness and vivacity, which steals so irresistibly to the heart.

This amiable creature continued some moments with a graceful composure in the middle of the hall, and then began a dance which perfectly astonished me; nothing could equal the lightness and activity of her steps, which hardly appeared to touch the pavement: she even seemed to swim in the air, and every motion was perfectly enchanting: I was no longer at a loss where to fix my preference, for my whole attention was now attracted by this charming person.

When she had finished the dance, I gave her a signal to approach me, and she immediately complied: we discoursed together a considerable time, and I thought her conversation more engaging, if possible, than her dancing; she
enter-

entertained me with a thousand pleasantries, and accompanied them from time to time with such alluring smiles and glances, as made her language sink like a soft dew into my soul.

From that moment she became absolutely mistress of my heart, and I was conquered without being conscious of my defeat. I mistook that for mere admiration, which, in reality proceeded from the poison of love. The compliments I made her, tho' they flowed from the bottom of my heart, appeared to me as so many civilities due to her extraordinary merit; and perhaps I might have had the same sentiments of the caresses she would have received from me, had I not been restrain'd by the presence of her companions, rather than any remembrance of Pacuncus. In a word, I imagined when I took my leave of her, that I might safely desire a private interview with her the next day.

Quita, for that was the name of the lovely dancer, complied with my request without the least repugnance. My lord, said she, I am commanded to render you an absolute obedience; and since you have made me acquainted with your intentions, I must inform you, that it will be my turn to-morrow to guard the first grotto on the right-hand as you enter the wood; I am to pass the whole day there, and shall have an opportunity of entertaining you without any interruption: for my part, I ac-

cepted of her proposal, and then retir'd to my chamber.

When I was laid in my bed, I reflected, with some uneasiness, on what had passed between Quita and myself, and began with condemning the imbecillity of mind I had discover'd, nor did I fail to reproach myself with the infidelity of my proceeding: What, said I, will Pecuncus say, should she ever know I thought one of her ladies more amiable than herself? But in a few moments I began to consider this affair in a different light, and could not persuade myself I had as yet been guilty of any perjury; I have received no orders, said I, not to see and admire, nor have I in any circumstance exceeded the limits of my duty. To such artifices does an unlawful passion resort for its justification, and the conduct which a moment before I had condemned as criminal, now passed in my opinion for virtue itself.

These meditations, so contradictory in themselves, were my entertainment a considerable part of the night; but the next morning I abandoned myself to the desires that misled me from my reason. The moment I rose from my bed, I went to the appointed grotto, where I found Quita waiting with impatience for my arrival; for if she had, inspired me with love, I had affected her with the same impressions. I now became perfectly enchanted with her beauty, and no one of her sex had till then
fired

fired my heart with desires so violent: No, said I, I never adored the sister of the magician Mullia with so much ardour; my passion for the fair Casana, never transported me to this degree; nay, Pacuncus herself never touched my soul with half the tenderness I now experience.

H O U R XXIX.

At these words I grew sensible my overthrow was compleated: I blushed at my indiscretion, and intended to retire; but how vain is every reflection, when one has once proceeded to such an extreme as mine! Even that flight which I thought to have recourse to for my expedient, would have availed me nothing, and in all probability I should not have fled very far: but Quira prevented me from making the experiment. Where would you go! said she, with streaming eyes: Can you abandon me so inhumanly, after you have kindled such insupportable flames in my soul!

No temptation can be so seducing as the tears of virgin beauty; and yet I had fortitude enough to oppose myself for some moments against their fatal prevalence: O Quira! said I, thou dangerous fair one, why dost thou detain me! Wouldst thou ensnare me into perjury, and tempt me to violate the vows I have plighted to my mistress! What will become of

me, should any of thy companions discover our disposition to each other, and resolve to make them public? And who can be sure that Pacuncus, as distant as she may now be from us, is not acquainted with every transaction in this place?

No, replied Quita, you have not any thing to fear in this sequester'd solitude, which secludes you from the eye of every mortal: these grotto's, in the absence of the Laica, are only resorted to by those who are intrusted to guard them, and Pacuncus must have piercing eyes indeed if they can penetrate into this recess; but were it even possible for her to know what passes in this palace, she can never be conscious of our soft enjoyments here.

These reasons, enforced by my passion, entirely triumphed over all my scruples; I caught the fatal Quita in my arms, and we were on the point of tasting the gratifications of our inordinate desires, when I was suddenly seized by four old women, each of whom held a large two-edged knife in her hand: they were the very persons who had formerly seized me at the fountain, and they now led me back to the hall, where our collations were always served up. They ordered me to take notice of the sixty-nine paws that projected from the wall; These, said they, are the right-hands of the perfidious husbands of Pacuncus, and your own must now increase the number,

since

since you have acted with the same infidelity as they. In vain had I recourse to supplications; they were deaf to all I could alledge. One of them stretched out my arm, and another of her companions cut it off at a single stroke. The excessive pain I receiv'd from this operation, made me faint away, and I became insensible of every thing that passed in the hall; but when I recovered my senses, I found myself, with my weapons and habit, laid by the fountain, and in the same place where I had formerly been bound in my sleep.

Thus was I deprived of my arm, and shamefully expelled a palace, where I might have lived in perfect happiness, could I have moderated my desires. In a word, I now beheld myself the sport of fortune, who pursues with unsated cruelty, a family that merited a better fate, and I determined to return at last to my own country: but to compleat my misfortunes, when I awaked this morning, I perceived I wanted the leg which had been restored me by the magician Rullaac: I concluded by this accident that my benefactor was dead, since the enchantment was at an end. Prince of the giants, added Moracac, I trailed my body along in the best manner I was able, and was endeavouring to return to my father, when you compelled me to be seated at your side in this place.

The

The giant made no reply to this discourse, and prince Houac had taken notice for some time, that the ynchic began to operate as he expected. He observ'd with pleasure, that the monster's eyes began to close, notwithstanding all his endeavours to keep them open, and at last he yielded to a profound sleep: in a word, when the second traveller had concluded his history, the senses of the giant was so locked up in slumber, that he sunk down on his side without awaking.



THE END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.



M